WILLIE CLASSEN: BOXING'S TRAGEDY

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The RING

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SUGAR RAY ROBINSON
BOXING'S ALL-TIME GREATEST?

MARVIN HAGLER
WHY IS HE SO MAD?

TOO TALL'S
ONE HIGH HOPE

PLUS: RED SMITH
BILL GALLO AND
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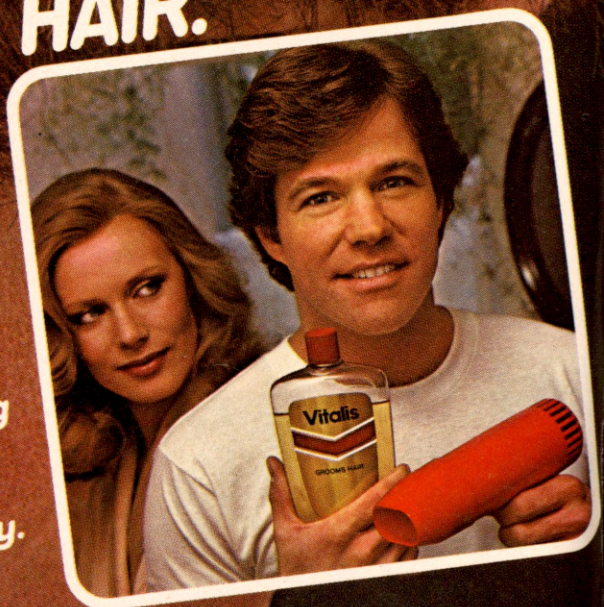

The RING

"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

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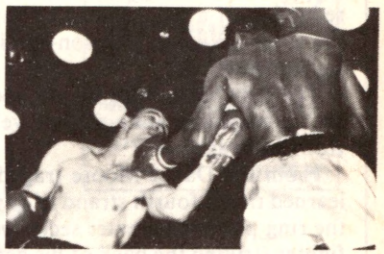

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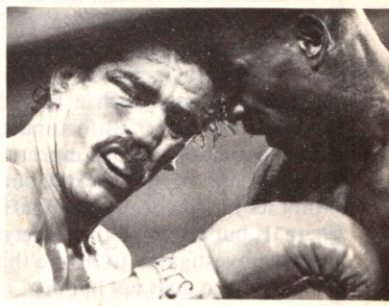

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RINGSIDE

No one has ever claimed that "The Manly Art of Self-Defense" doesn't possess some inherent danger to the participants. And no matter how you try to rationalize it — there are more fatalities in auto racing every year, football has more than its share of disabling injuries, as witnessed by Daryl Stingley, and even baseball, down at the Little League level, has had serious injuries and even deaths — there is no defense to the occasional reduction of a man to dust as happened in the recent Wilford Scypion-Willie Classen fight in New York.

The only hope, both for the sport and in the name of humanity, is that we can learn from our tragedies.

From the Davey Moore tragedy, boxing learned that a fourth strand of rope around the ring provided greater security against a fighter striking the back of his head against one of the three strands, preventing the whiplashing of his spinal cord. From the continual hammering of Tommy Collins to the canvas by Jimmy Carter, boxing learned enough to impose a three-knockdown rule. And from the constant hauling to corners of semi-conscious fighters after the bell ending a round, boxing learned enough to institute a rule calling for the count to be continued even after the bell, except in the final round.

What can boxing learn from the Classen tragedy? Granted, the New York State Athletic Commission did everything within its power — and on its books — to prevent the occurrence of just such a tragedy. Was it enough? The answer, unfortunately, is no!

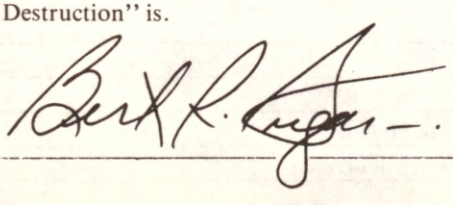
The mandatory 30-day moratorium after a fighter has been knocked out, whether within its jurisdictional boundaries or elsewhere, is but a start. Other safety measures must be investigated to insure that another Willie Classen does not happen. First, commissions throughout the world must set up some sort of an interchange of information on boxers who ply their trade outside the boundaries of the commission in question. In that manner — whether it be through a central data bank with terminals in each commission's office or through an interchange of mail — it can be determined not only whether a fighter was knocked out, but if there was any post-fight injury, as Classen had claimed, citing his double-vision after losing to Tony Sibson in London the month before. *Ring* not only advocates such a centralized reservoir of information, but will begin investigating how to structure one, inasmuch as we need a continual flow of information on boxers to pull together our annual *Record Book*.

Secondly, referees must be in total control of a fight. Heretofore referees have attempted to control a fight as well as score it. Referees have enough to do — or should have enough to do — without attempting to adjudge which of the two boxers is winning a round. Their job, and their only job, should be to control a fight. Leave the scoring to three ringside judges and allow the referees to control the fight, insuring both the flow of the contest and — most importantly — the safety of the participants.

But referees must be more than in control of the fight; they must know the basic rules of boxing. Not only did the referee in the Willie Classen fight fail to understand New York State's rules which hold that there is no such thing as a standing eight-count in New York State — thus tolling eight over a helpless fighter instead of stopping the contest — but he also further illustrated his total lack of control by failing to have the fighters touch gloves at the start of the fateful tenth round. And a man who cannot raise his hands to touch gloves, as Classen couldn't, obviously couldn't raise his hands to defend himself — as was proved when Classen was knocked through the ropes 12 seconds after the start of the round and seven seconds after his cornermen propelled him off his stool.

Therefore, we call on boxing commissions everywhere to institute a rule calling for fighters to touch gloves *before each and every round*. The precious two seconds lost may indicate when a fighter is defenseless — and save another Classen tragedy.

To make boxing "The *Gentle*manly Art of Self-Defense" instead of "The Manly Art of Self-Defense" is no crime. To allow it to be "The Manly Art of Self-Destruction" is.



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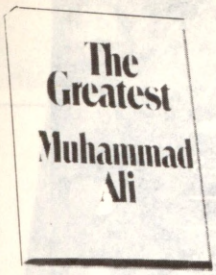

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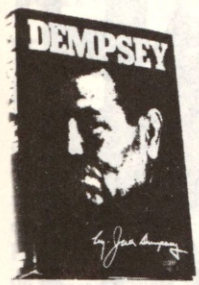

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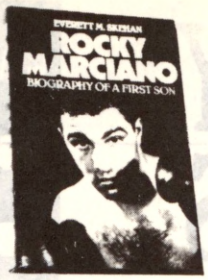

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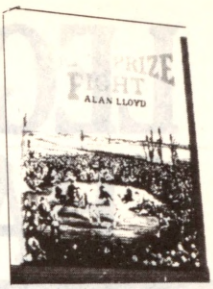

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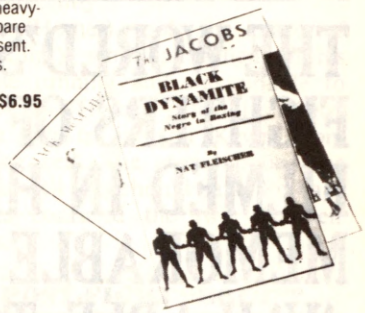

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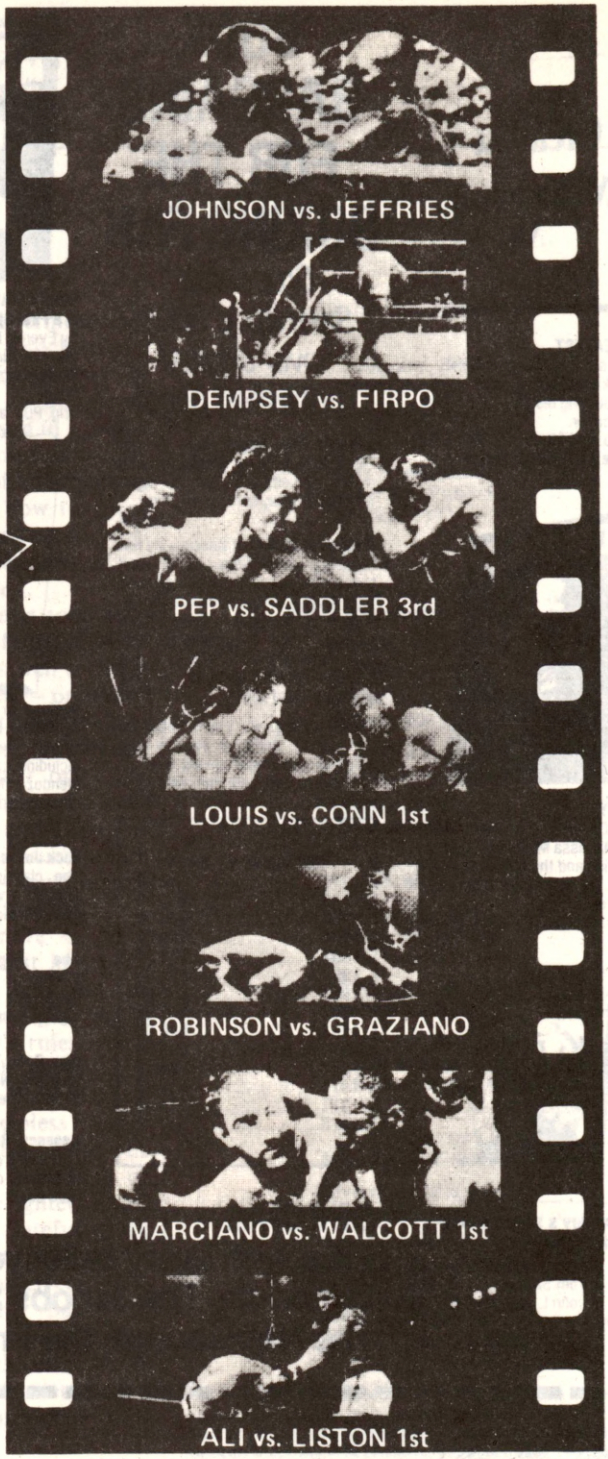

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ROUND ONE

BOXING'S SHORTS

For a fight film with virtually no fights, *Good Night Miss Ann* is an intriguing 28-minute flic. Nominated for an Academy Award in the short subject category, the movie revolves around veteran fight trainer Duke Holloway, who is the stereotypical trainer with bags under his eyes and a cigar in the corner of his mouth. He talks about fighters in the "good old days" of the '30s and '40s — and on today's fighters, "they gettin' weaker but they ain't gettin' smarter."

The film is a conglomeration of strong visual images — close-ups of managers after a fight squeezing a boxer's eyes to reduce the swelling; fighter's faces, one after another, with noses spread; and fighters with scar tissue around the eyes and nose. Realistic in its approach, the characters and scenes are fairly authentic and the historical and traditional sidelights informative.Says one fighter, "I smoked Colombian marijuana, but there is nothing higher than fighting."

And the title for the film? When a fighter is losing he will often plead, "Don't throw in the towel! Let me stay out here til I say 'Goodnight Miss Ann!'"

INFLATION STRIKES

England's John Conteh lost more than the fight when light heavyweight Matthew Saad Muhammad won a decision over him last August. When Conteh signed for the fight with the South Philadelphian, he asked for his money in American dollars. By the time he received his purse after the loss and exchanged it for British pounds, he had lost nearly 15 percent of his blood-and-sweat money.

ONE. . .TWO. . . THREE. . .AND OUT!

While Commonwealth welterweight champion Clyde Grey regained his title in a championship bout with Chris Clarke at Halifax, Nova Scotia, three convicts regained their freedom. The prisoners, part of a group of 26 taken to the fight as a treat from the

Springhill Medium Security Institution, took advantage of the excursion and disappeared into — and out of — the crowd.

BOXING'S DRIVING FORCE

Light heavyweight boxer Bobby Cassidy was arrested on charges of falsifying his New York State driver's license. The 35-year-old fighter, once ranked No. 2 by the WBC, was charged with second degree forgery. Cassidy apparently applied for an operator's license in 1973 under the name Steven R. Cassidy — giving authorities a fictious birthdate, but his real address.

Cassidy's license had been revoked in 1972 after he failed to answer summonses for his numerous traffic violations. The fighter was recently stopped for a routine traffic check in Levittown, Long Island, and a verification of his license led to the arrest.

Although Cassidy is not officially retired, he has been relatively inactive during the last few years. He may be even more inactive without his driver's license — and his 1978 Chevy.

HENRY GETS HAMMERED

The only boxer to have held three world titles at one time — 66-year-old "Hammering" Henry Armstrong — was attacked in St. Louis recently by muggers. He described the beating as more brutal than anything he had ever experienced in the ring.

"I got hit with what you call a Sunday punch — one you don't know is coming," said Armstrong from his hospital room where he was recovering from the multiple injuries he received. "If I had been in a better position I could have hit one of them."

Walking to his car after giving a benefit speech, two men struck Armstrong repeatedly on the forehead, neck and in the ribs. "I never had anybody attack me like that before," he lamented.

After he was knocked unconscious, the muggers apparently looked through his wallet and discovered who he was. They placed him in their car and dropped him off in front of his home. But they did keep the wallet — along with a watch and two rings.

WAS THAT JACKSON-VILLE, FLORIDA?

Homer Jackson, substituting for Clint Jackson, scored an eight-round split decision over Kevin Jackson in a junior middleweight bout held in Orlando recently.

Jackson (Homer) took the place of Jackson (Clint), who had fallen on his hand while running and was unable to fight. Jackson (Homer) filled in nicely, taking the fight to Jackson (Kevin) from the opening bell. The crowd booed the decision, as well they should have. Perhaps the judges confused the two on their scorecards.

TATE'S POST-FIGHT "BOUT"?

An Australian model, who was arrested in Johannesburg, South Africa on drug charges, claims she spent "a night of passion" with WBA heavyweight champion John Tate after his title victory over South African Gerrie Coetzee.

Said Tate, after being informed of the young beauty's accusations, "I ain't ever been to bed with her. I know two or three girls sharper than that girl!"

PERRENCHIO'S GRAND RETURN TO BOXING

Remember Jerry Perrenchio, the man who put together — with Jack Kent Cooke's jack — "The Fight" between Frazier and Ali? And then, after grossing some $5 million-plus came back

Continued on page 6

with Foreman-Frazier II? Well seems he's now bid more than $100 million for a majority of the MGM stock, including the Las Vegas Grand Hotel, which will undoubtedly put yet another Vegas hotel into the boxing business.

LOOKING GIFT GLOVES IN THE MOUTH

Ernesto Espana of Venezuela, WBA lightweight champion, in Washington, D.C. for his championship bout with Leonardo Asprilla — later aborted because of monetary "shorts" — took time out to deliver a gift to the White House for President Carter.

The gift was a pair of boxing gloves inscribed "To Jimmy Carter, a true world champion of human rights."

But Espana was rebuffed in his attempts to deliver them by White House guards, who even refused to take them. Perhaps Carter has reverted to a "gloves-off" policy now.

AND NOW A WORD . . . A WORD . . . FROM OUR SPONSORS

As viewers across the country tuned in to watch Ed "Too Tall" Jones' pro debut on the Nov. 2nd CBS Sports Spectacular, any high hopes of seeing the fight at the scheduled time of 4:30 EST were soon squelched as commercial-after-commercial comingled with such "sports" as cheerleading relay-races and poker.

The fight did not take place for nearly an hour and a quarter after the actual advertised time. Tantalizing flashes of Jones appeared on the screen sandwiched between commercials for cameras and beer as the television audience was reassured periodically that the fight *would* take place. Then came film clips of Charlie Powell being knocked out by Cassius Clay followed by pictures of Jimmy Brown, Wilt Chamberlain and Lyle Alzado — athletes who did not abandon other games to enter the ring. Larry Holmes then appeared to say that, if Jones could fight, he might develop into a contender. Then, a few more commercials for video recorders, wine, and a nasal spray.

Viewers were next subjected to the National Football League cheerleaders who smiled and swam 83-foot races. Then more plugs for beer, an auto parts supplier, back to the cheerleaders, back to commercials, ad nauseum.

And still no "Too Tall". Instead, CBS went to Las Vegas for "the World Series of Poker" — another great Sports Spectacular — and more commercials for soft

drinks, a car battery, a car, and another beer.

Tom Landry, Roger Staubach, Terry Bradshaw and Bob Newhouse of the NFL appeared to wish "Too Tall" luck. A few more pushes for beer, etc., and finally the fight was on — if anyone who had run to their refrigerator to uncap a beer every time they were told to by some faceless announcer was still awake to watch it.

WHEN IS A "CRUISERWEIGHT" NOT A "CRUISERWEIGHT"?

The World Boxing Council, whose world ratings are nearly as laughable as the rival World Boxing Association's ratings, outdid themselves in their October 1979 list of the world's top fighters.

In the WBC's newly-formed "Cruiserweight" (more than 175 pounds, not more than 190 pounds) division, the 19th-rated cruiserweight in the world is "Steve Homan (US)."

This came as quite a surprise to everyone—especially Steve. For the last time the native of Raytown, Kansas, stepped on a scale, he weighed 135 pounds.

Can this mean, in the words of one boxing manager, that the definition of cruiserweight means "he is bigger than a breadbox, but smaller than a battleship."

ONE GREAT CHAMPION ON ANOTHER

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of the invention of the incandescent light by Thomas Alva Edison.

When asked what he thought of that other great American champion and hero, Jack Dempsey had this to say about Edison: "A great companion to all in that he allowed man to actually see how he was living. The light within Edison was pretty strong and even though I never knew him I respected the Great Man — who, like myself, also worked damned hard with his best tools, his hands and his instincts."

DOWN FOR THE COUNT

CHRIS NEWTON, 83, former Olympic Medal winner and Canadian Lightweight champion, in Toronto. Turning professional after his return from the 1920 Olympics, Newton won the Canadian Lightweight championship with a decision over another former Olympic boxer, Cliff Graham of Toronto.

MEYER (K.O.) CHRISTNER, 84, in Akron, Ohio. Christner had nearly 250 pro fights during his boxing career, which spanned the 1920's and 30's. His most famous fight took place on Dec. 4, 1928, when he knocked out "The Fighting Dane," Knute Hansen.

HARRY SANDELL, 80, in San Francisco. Younger brother of the late boxing organizer Al Sandell, Harry was a long-time commission inspector often serving at wrestling matches and equipment manager at the SF Golden Gloves for more than 50 years.

PUNCHLINES

Former defensive end of the Dallas Cowboys Ed "Too Tall" Jones: "I think the press expects too much of me. I think they expect me to fight the way I played football."

After Malaysa fight against Ali, British writers congregated in Joe Bugner's room questioning him on his apparent lack of trying. Bugner, annoyed by the drift of the questioning, blurted out, "Get me Jesus Christ, I'll fight him tomorrow," to which Hugh McIllvanney of the London Observer retorted, "Ah, Joe, you're only saying that 'cause you know he's got bad hands."

Jose Sulaiman, WBC president recuperating from a heart attack: "Bob Arum is a crazy man. I was in the hospital having heart therapy and he sent me an embarrassing, insulting letter. Why didn't he send it to my home? Did he want me to have another attack?"

After being knocked out in 41 seconds of the first round by "Too Tall" Jones, Fernando Montes' manager blamed his tiger's showing on his being "overconfident". —by E.J. Gary

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___BBRH - Satin Boys Finger Tip with hood	36.00	48.00
___BBRFL - Full Length with hood	39.00	52.00
___TBR - Boys Finger Tip - Terry Cloth	28.00	21.00
___TBRH - Boys Finger Tip - Terry Cloth with hood	32.00	24.00
___TBRFL - Boys Full Length with hood	36.00	27.00
___TR - Mens Finger Tip Terry Cloth	34.00	25.50
___TRH - Mens Finger Tip Terry Cloth with hood	38.00	25.50
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COME OUT WRITING

WHEN IS A TITLE *NOT* A TITLE?

In the future, when evaluations of Heavyweight Champions are made, why will the names of Ernie Terrell, Jimmy Ellis, Ken Norton, and possibly Larry Holmes, be absent? Because none was ever Heavyweight Champion of the World.

If Floyd Patterson had won the decision over Jimmy Ellis, would he have become the first fighter to win the heavyweight title three times? I don't think so. Because they were fighting for the WBA crown, not the undisputed world title.

Which brings me to this point: Muhammad Ali, in truth, has not won the Heavyweight Championship of the World three times. He's won it twice — and part of it once. And yet he'll go down in history, in fact, already has, as the only — or at least the first — three-time Heavyweight Champion.

Don't get me wrong, I think he's the finest heavyweight who's ever held the crown. But he is not actually a three-time World Heavyweight Champion. The fault isn't his, it's these crazy self-appointed groups who want to control boxing. They aren't controlling it, they're ruining it!

JESSE JOHNSON, Houston, Texas

IN SPAIN THEY SAY "SI; SI!"

It occurred to me recently while watching a fight with two South American fighters contesting for honors that it would be very useful to U.S. fans to have a list of cheers and advice in Spanish with English translations and phonetic pronunciation guide. It's no fun to cheer and give advice if you know the fighter cannot understand you.

RALPH PAULSON, Keene, N.H.

WILL THE REAL JIMMY BIVINS PLEASE STAND UP?

In the October issue you had a story on Jimmy Bivins in which you said that "he currently lives with his second wife in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn." This isn't so. I know Jimmy Bivins. I should; I fought him in 1952. The man who lives in Brooklyn and claims to be "Jimmy Bivins" is what I would call an imposter. The real Jimmy Bivins came from Cleveland, Ohio, and I think, still lives there.

COLEY WALLACE, Brooklyn, N.Y.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Boxing's heroes have always been subject to hero-worship. And worse. Some even have had their names misappropriated by others who have wished to impress their favorite bartender and fellow man alike. Norman Selby, who fought under the name Kid McCoy, was forced, time and again, to proclaim that he was "The real *McCoy," in order to put the lie to imposters using his name in vain — and, not incidentally, give rise to the famous saying. Others, including Frankie Genero, Pancho Villa, and just about every boxer who has ever fought, have suffered a similar fate. Now it seems that you can add the name Jimmy Bivins to the growing list, as Coley Wallace — like so many other readers, including Jerry Fitch and Flash Gordon, discovered. The* real *Bivins resides in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is a member of the boxing commission. Meae culpae.*

CAN'T COMPARE

After watching Larry Holmes almost lose his title to Mike (Hercules) Weaver I find it hard, as you stated in your magazine, to compare him with Joe Louis. Admittedly Holmes is probably the best around today in the heavyweights but this weight division is certainly not as strong as it was in Louis' era — and not even as strong as it was in the sixties. You'll never get anywhere comparing fighters of old with today's best. Let's just concentrate on them in their own separate glory.

Brian Charlesworth
Loncashire, England

TOO TALL'S NOT THE FIRST TO TRY

Your October feature on pro-football player Ed "Too Tall" Jones — and whether or not he will make it as a heavyweight boxer — brought to mind two other strong giants who did not: 1956 Olympic heavyweight weightlifting champion Paul Anderson, who started off as a boxer but retired after a few losses, and shotputter Bill Nieder, the Olympic silver medalist in 1956 and the gold medalist in 1960, who was KO'd in one round in his first — and last — professional fight. So I agree with Jose Torres, who said, "If he thinks he'll get by just because of his size, he's in for a surprise."

FRED SPENCE, Birmingham, England

THE SUN NEVER SETS ON A BRITISH FIGHTER.

Congratulations on the way *Ring* has revamped since you took it over. However (there's usually a "however" after a compliment) I take exception to Mike Marley's list of The Ten Worst Heavyweights in the Nov. issue.

They are all Americans. What makes you think you have a monopoly? You made the

same mistake about oil but we had only to dig into the North Sea to disprove that.

As for heavyweights, we have always had the skim de la skim. If all the dust bitten by British heavyweights were collected in sacks and taken to the U.S. it would provide the scene for another Steinbeck to produce a rewrite of *Grapes of Wrath*.

And if all the British heavyweights were laid end to end . . . well, that way we would recognise them more readily.

The phrase "horizontal heavyweight" is ours. To be more precise, it was originated by the *Daily Mail's* cartoonist Tom Webster along with Tishy, the thoroughbred which carried his cash but had this habit of crossing its legs in full stride.

The heavyweight traditon remains and nobody carried it with such distinction as Jack Bodell.

To achieve real notoriety in this field, a fighter has to find some way to arrive at a point where he can lose to the famous.

Farmer Jack, known as the Swadlincote Swineherd, reached that point by confusing his early opponents with a style which was unorthodox even for one who led with his right hand.

He had a habit of slamming his right foot down as he jabbed. If the glove didn't get you, the boot did. I remember Joe Roman limping out of a Bodell fight with his face barely blemished, but with horrible wounds on his shin.

The young Joe Bugner, newly crowned British and European champion, made the mistake of meeting Bodell and an hour later had mislaid his titles. So suddenly Bodell was right up there, ready to meet his destiny in the shape of Jerry Quarry.

When Jerry flew into London they showed him a film of a Bodell fight. He said: "You're putting me on! Come on now, let's see the real film." Ah, we said, but he has this awkward style.

When the referee called them for final instructions, Bodell tripped on the way to the centre of the ring. Some two minutes later the fight was over.

In the dressing room Jerry was asked if he found Bodell awkward. He said: "Well, he fell awkward."

After that, the awful statistics began to pile up. Bodell's Achilles chin was revealed. Awaiting execution in Madrid by Jose Urtain, Bodell said: "I'll retire when I see the green light." A two round defeat by Urtain failed to convince him. But six months later he dropped the British title, also in the second, to Danny McAlinden.

Now McAlinden, there's another sad story . . .

PETER MOSS, London *Daily Mail*

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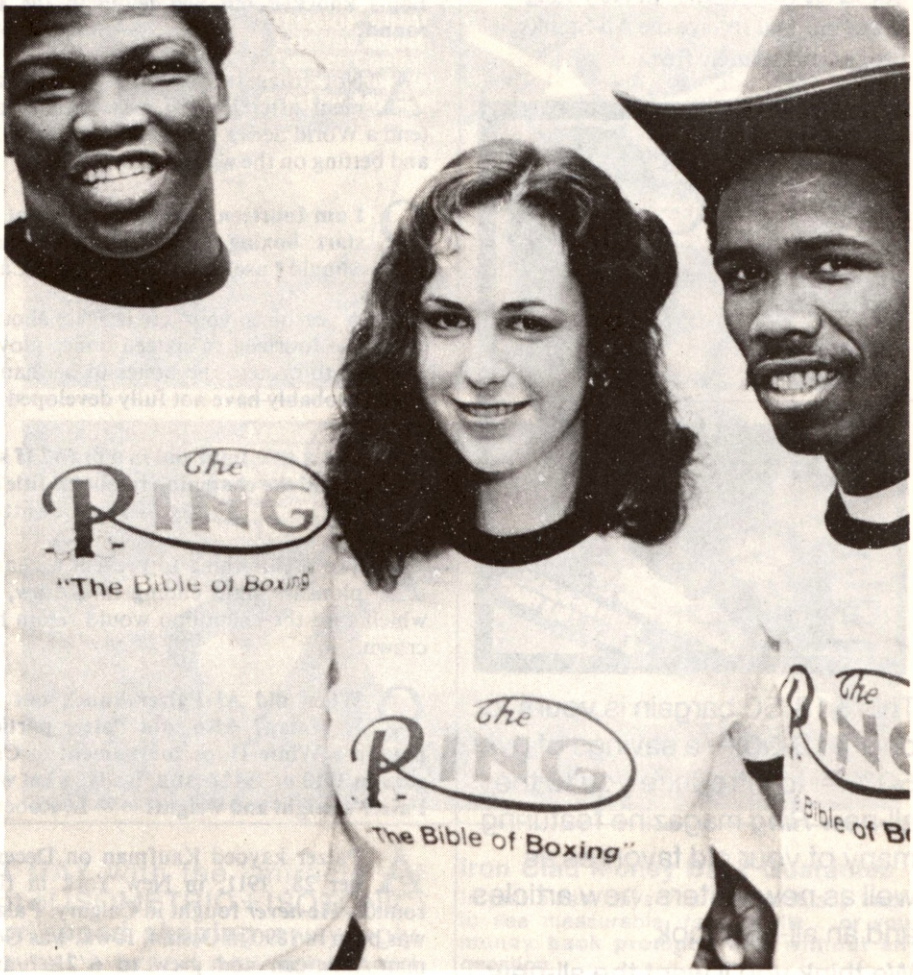

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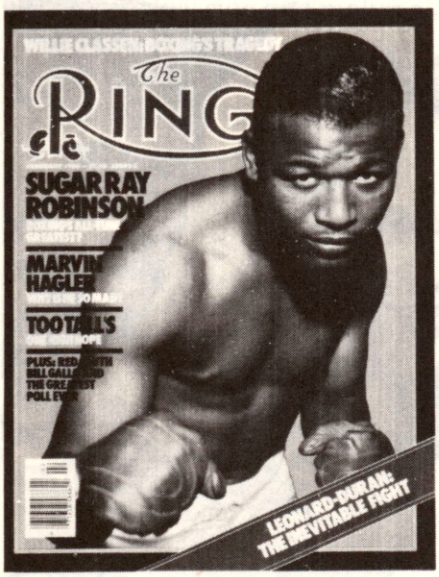

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q Was the comment by Joe Jacobs, manager of Max Schmeling, "I should of stood in bed!" made after Joe Louis knocked out Schmeling in the 1st round? —Ralph Kelvin

A Not true. Jacobs made that statement after leaving a sickbed to attend a World Series game in Detroit in 1935 and betting on the wrong team.

Q I am fourteen years old and want to start boxing. What ounce boxing gloves should I use? —Chris DeCain

A A person in your age bracket should use fourteen to sixteen ounce gloves in order to protect the bones in his hands which probably have not fully developed.

Q Can a title fight end in a draw? If so, would the champion retain his title? —Jimmie Slitzen

A There is nothing to prevent a championship fight ending in a draw, in which case the champion would retain his crown.

Q When did Al Palzer knock out Al Kaufman? Also, did Palzer participate in a White Hope tournament in Calgary in 1910 or 1911? And, lastly, what was Palzer's height and weight? —L. Roberts

A Palzer kayoed Kaufman on December 28, 1911, in New York in five rounds. He *never* fought in Calgary. Palzer was born in 1890 in Ossian, Iowa, was German-American and grew to 6′2½″ and weighed 218.

Q When was the first mouthguard used in a regulation match? —Arthur Myerson

A The first time a mouthpiece was used was on August 31, 1915, in a twelve rounder in Boston between Ted "Kid" Lewis and Jack Britton, billed as being for the world welter title but not recognized as such by anyone outside their families. The first round had just begun when Britton pointed his thumb at Lewis. "Look, he's wearing a thing in his mouth and that's illegal as a headguard!" The referee, Patsy Haley, agreed and the mouthpiece was thrown out into the crowd. It was, however, the start of a drive to prevent dental injuries and before long became an accepted part of a fighter's equipment.

Q Can you tell me how to obtain fighters' autographs and photos? Can you also send me the address of The Boxing Hall of Fame? —Henry Pasalakis

A Best bet is to get autographs by visiting the boxing gyms or the fight arenas in your area. Photos can be bought through The Ring Bookshop, 120 W. 31st St., N.Y., N.Y. 10001 — write and ask for a list of photos. The Ring Boxing Hall of Fame is located in the offices of The Ring magazine at the same address.

Q Could you tell me if, during the period from 1905 to 1915 there were officially sanctioned commissions at any levels — municipal, state, etc? Also, did fighters need licenses; and did they get physicals? —Lawrence Roberts

A From 1900 to 1911, when the Frawley Law brought back boxing into New York State, boxing was staged in New York on a Club Membership basis with fans joining private clubs to get around the "no fight" law. Then, in 1911, boxing came back to New York State with fights up to 10 rounds. This was the law under which boxing operated in the latter period of your query. No licenses were needed by fighters and no mandatory physical had to be taken. It was not until the Walker Law of 1920 that licensing and other rules, including physicals, came into being in New York and served as a pattern for the supervision of boxing around the world. There were a few municipal and state commissions during this entire period, but it was not until 1920 that boxing — with commissions, rules and regulations — came of age in the U.S. and other countries.

Q The record of Benny Leonard shows the one-time great lightweight apparently fighting as many as six fights in one month. I don't understand why today's fighters rarely fight twice in a month? —Bobby Crane

A The reason why former lightweight champion Benny Leonard fought as much as six times a month and modern fighters don't is simply MONEY, spelled with a capital M. Leonard didn't make as much in his entire professional boxing career (1911-1932) as any fighter good enough to make it on the boob tube can draw in one year. Why fight six times a month when six times a year will do it?

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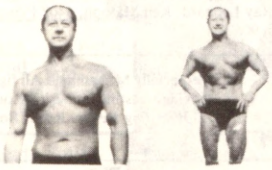

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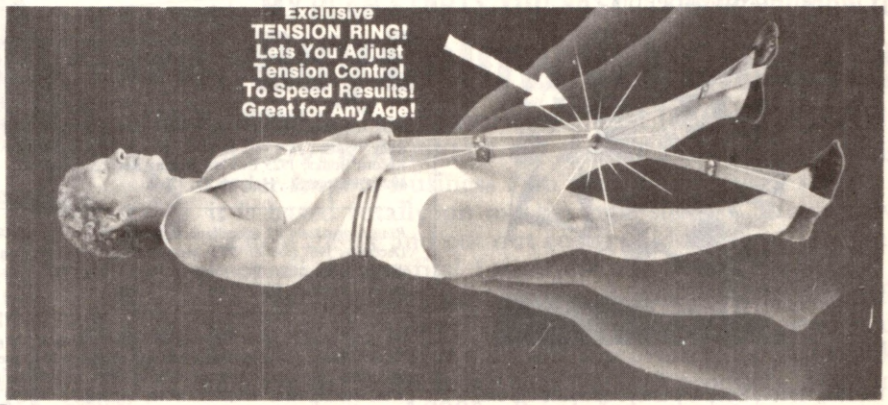

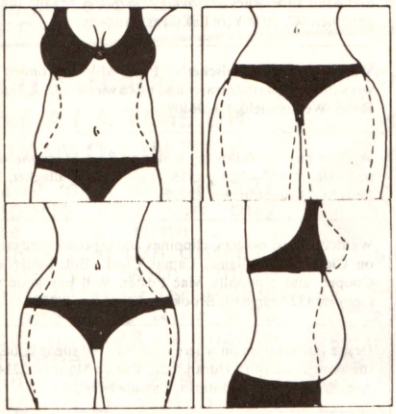

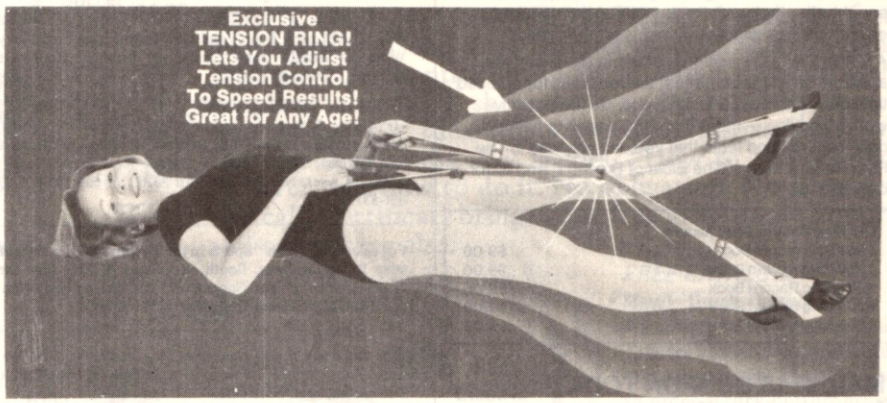

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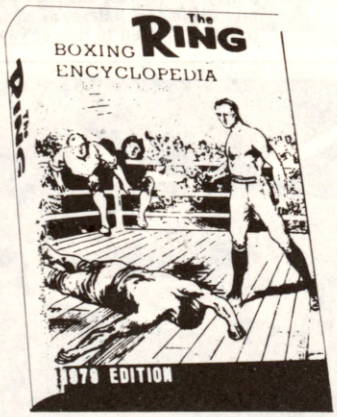

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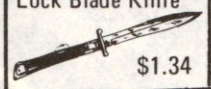

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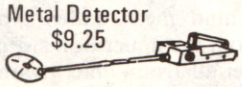

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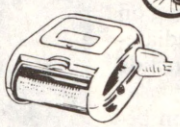

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A JUDGE'S EYEVIEW OF THE CLASSEN FIGHT

AN OFFICIAL MAKES AN UNOFFICIAL FINDING

By JOSEPH BRUNO

March 24, 1962. I remember the night well. On national TV Emile Griffith landed 21 unanswered punches to the head of Benny "Kid" Paret before Referee Ruby Goldstein stopped the slaughter. Paret died nine days later. Griffith was never the same fighter again. Understandably he lost the killer instinct. I said to myself this would *never* happen again. Referees would be more careful in the future. As soon as a fighter was defenseless they would stop the fight.

November 23, 1979. Willie Classen is lying unconscious on the apron outside the ring in New York's Felt Forum. This time I am not watching on TV. I am one of the boxing judges, licensed by the New York State Athletic Commission. Willie has just been knocked out by Wilford Scypion, an undefeated fighter from Texas who has knocked out all of his opponents. I don't think Classen is hurt badly. Only three punches landed in the tenth round — a left, and two hard rights to the side of Classen's head. The referee, Lew Eskin, caught him before he could land on his head. Suddenly, I looked across the ring and I see the distraught face of Emile Griffith who was working in Scypion's corner. Chills run up and down my spine. At that moment I knew that Willie Classen would not live.

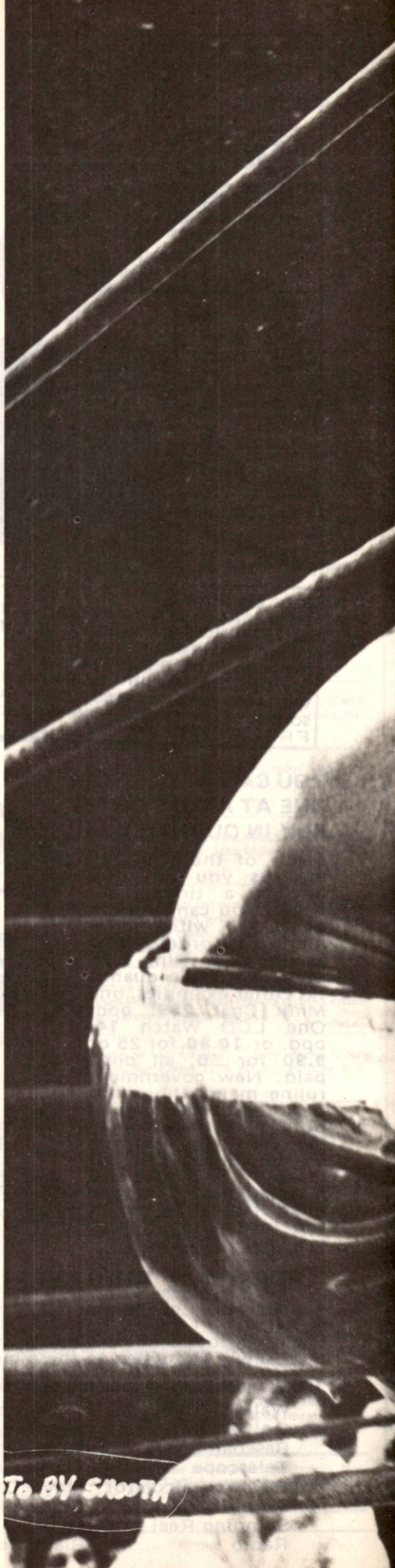
There are two more fights remaining on the card. I try to forget my eerie feeling and concentrate on judging the fights. The first fight ends in a one-round knockout; but the main event between Mike Ayala and Enrique Solis goes the full 10. Between rounds my mind wanders to the Classen fight. Surely my imagination is running away with me. I've seen fighters get worse beatings and nothing happened. After the fights I'll go into the dressing room and find out he's alright.

I give my decision for Ayala and turn around to look for my wife who's sitting somewhere behind me. Suddenly bottles come flying from the upper decks. Pints of Baccardi shatter all around me. I wonder if they're throwing them because they wanted Solis (who, like Classen, is Puerto Rican) to win, or because they are mad that the Classen fight wasn't stopped sooner. I fear the latter. Maybe they know something I don't. I grab my wife's arm and we dash behind the ring to the hallway leading to the dressing rooms. My fears are confirmed. I'm told not to leave. A meeting on the Classen fight will take place immediately. My stomach turns queezy. I want to hide someplace and cry.

Willie Classen's road to destruction began 29 years ago in Santurce, Puerto Rico. At the age of nine he moved to one of the tougher neighborhoods in New York; East Harlem. He had his share of trouble and spent time in the Spofferd Youth House in the Bronx.

"He had it rough, like we all did," said his manager, Marco Minuto, whose managerial capabilities are dubious — at best. This marriage made in hell started when Classen walked into Minuto's pizza parlor in the Bronx in 1971. Willie had just won

Joseph Bruno is a boxing judge with the New York State Athletic Commission and was one of the three officials at ringside the night of the Classen-Scypion fight.



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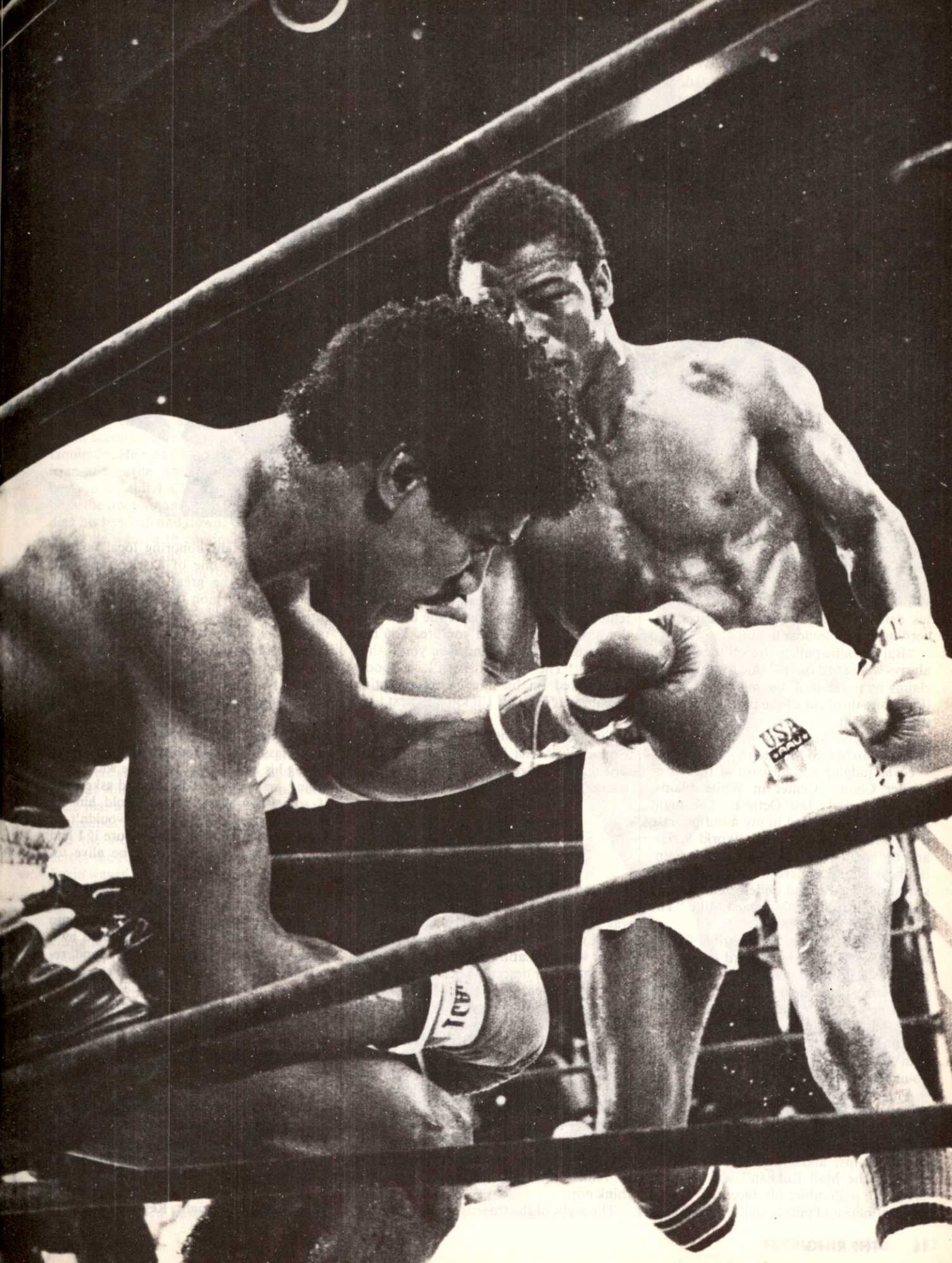
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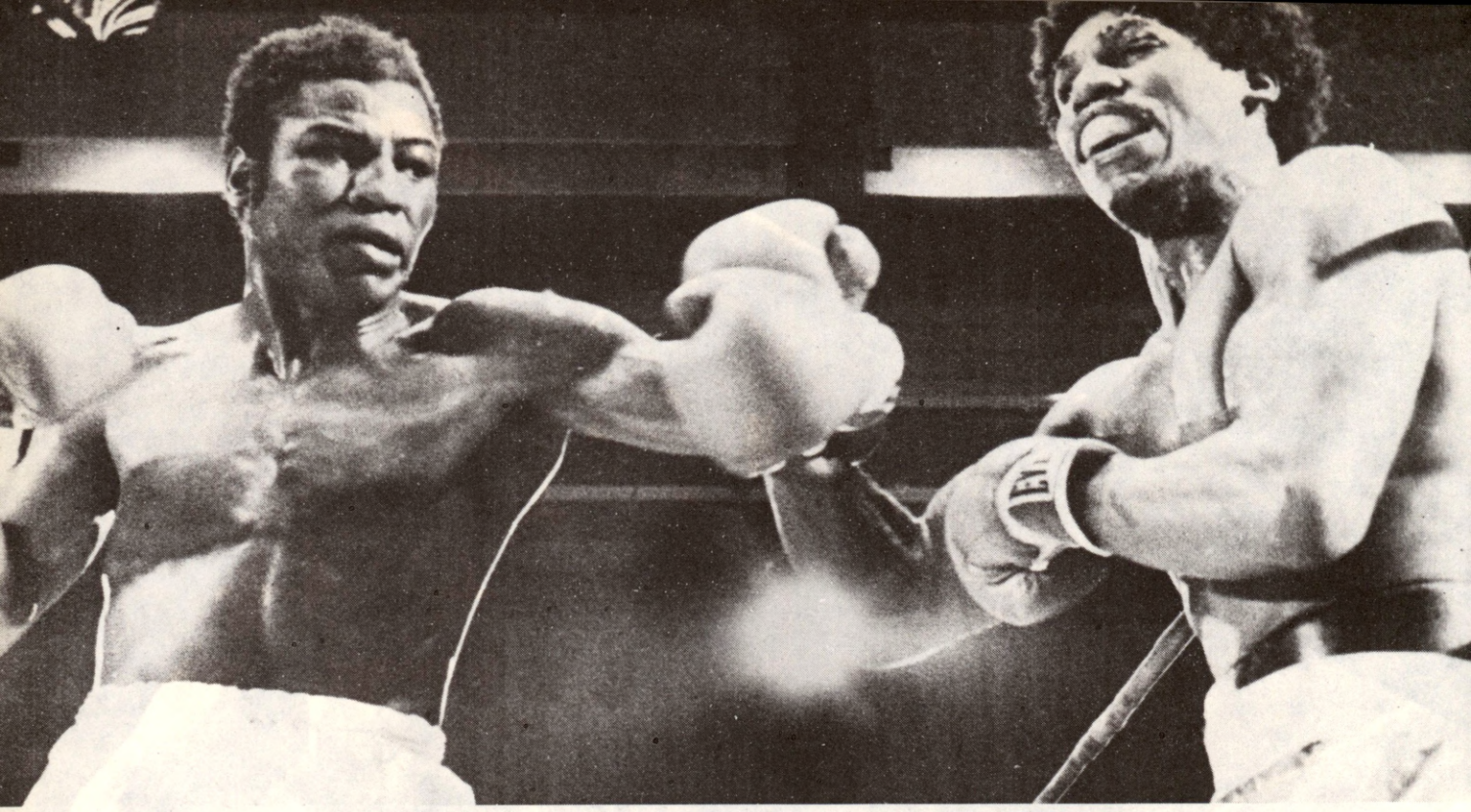

the 1971 Golden Gloves. Fast-talking Minuto became his unofficial advisor, finally surfacing as his manager of record in 1977. Willie won more than he lost, but he took his defeats badly, dabbling in drugs, according to people close to him.

"But when he pulled himself together he always wanted to fight," said Minuto, who claims he never took the manager's traditional one-third cut of the purse until Classen's last fight.

Let me give you some insight into the type of man Marco Minuto is:

I was judging a fight card at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, New York early last October. The night remains firmly etched in my mind because it was the first night of the World Series, and the weather was horrible. It was raining heavily and the crowd was small. The semi-final fight pitted undefeated Renaldo Snipes against the aptly-named Mike "The Mad Russian" Tarasewich.

"The Mad Russian" is a terrible fighter with a tendency to get hit hard — and often. This is his *good* point. He is also more than somewhat deluded. He honestly thinks he belongs in the ring. Snipes relentlessly battered him around the ring, but amazingly could not put "The Mad Russian" on the deck. Snipes won all eight rounds.

There was a 10-minute intermission before the main event, and I used this time to answer a call from nature. The officials and the fighters share the same restroom in White Plains, and I confronted an eerie sight. "The Mad Russian" was standing erect like a Zombie, his face and body a mass of blue and purple welts. Standing directly in front of him, face-to-face, was a man whom I immediately recognized as his trainer, vigorously rubbing "The Mad Russian's" body from head-to-toe. He was telling Tarasewich, "You're the best. They don't realize how good you are. You'll be champion some day, and then you'll show them." "The Mad Russian", a spooky smile fixed on his face, kept repeating, "Yeah, you're right! I'll kill him next time! I'm the best!"

Eight days later he lost to Eddie Davis at Commack Arena by a first round TKO. The man in the restroom, his manager and trainer, was Marco Minuto.

Willie Classen's biggest fight was at Madison Square Garden against present middleweight champ Vito Antuofermo. It was a fairly close fight with Vito a unanimous winner. As is customary in close fights when a Latin fighter loses, the bottles began their descent. Then an even more intolerable event occurred. Marco Minuto re-entered the ring carrying Willie Classen on his shoulders. They waved frantically to the crowd and in minutes the ring was filled with unruly — and probably intoxicated — fight fans. The Garden was in bedlam as chairs were heaved all over the arena. Finally the police "riot squad" was called in and order was restored.

Should a man who plays "Svengali" to inept fighters, and incites riots be permitted to retain a boxing manager's license? I think not.

The night of the tragedy was supposed to be a happy night honoring local favorite Chuck Wepner, one of a select few who have floored the great Muhammad Ali. The Classen-Scypion fight was the first of three 10-rounders. The match had been made only 10 days before. Cornerman and former manager Mike Capriano complained to Minuto moments before the match that Classen did not look well, and that he should not send his fighter into the ring. "I think Minuto made a big mistake," Capriano said. "I didn't like the way Classen looked before the fight. I was taping his hands and didn't like what I was seeing, so I went to Minuto and asked him if something was wrong. I told him he (Classen) looked bad, but he wouldn't let me take control. You can be sure if I had the responsibility, he would be alive today."

The first two rounds of the fight were close, with Classen winning the first, and Scypion the second. About a minute into the third round Classen was floored by a series of rights. He survived the round, receiving many punches along the ropes, but was punching back at the end. Rounds four through eight were close. I gave Classen the sixth and seventh rounds. He seemed to be coming on strong. I had the fight, at that point, 4-3 Scypion. Round eight was Scypion's and he battered Classen along the ropes with body punches.

In the ninth round Scypion continued to pound Classen's body, and with about a minute left in the round, switched to the head. A series of blows to the head hurt Classen and he fell against the ropes, defenseless. As I saw it, the bottom strand of ropes held him upright. Referee Lew Eskin

called this a knockdown and gave him the mandatory eight count. For the remaining 25 seconds Classen lay on the ropes directly above me. Scypion missed most of his punches, but it was hard to determine whether it was Classen's bobbing and weaving or Scypion's anxiousness that caused this.

As Classen went back to his corner on unsteady legs, I sensed that the fight might be stopped. His corner was on my side of the ring so I had a clear picture of what occurred. (Unfortunately the films of the fight do not show what happened in the corner between rounds. I made note of this when I viewed them, along with other members of the Boxing Commission five days after the fight.)

There were five people in the corner working over Classen when Eskin came over—three cornermen and two doctors. Both Doctors Richard Izquierdo and Roger Warner were there examining Classen. (Strangely enough, all newspaper and television accounts I've seen mention only Dr. Izquierdo. He was Classen's personal physician and is the center of the controversy because of this.) Classen was talking to both the doctors and Eskin. He kept nodding his head up and down, obviously indicating he wanted to continue. At the time he looked more exhausted to me than hurt. (This was my impression then, and I'll stick to it now. It would be easy for me, in light of what happened, to say I thought the fight should have been stopped. Hindsight is 20-20.)

The bell rang for the start of the tenth and final round. There was mass confusion in Classen's corner. The doctors and seconds were still on the ring apron, and Classen was still sitting on his stool. (The rules state that at the 10 second warning buzzer all seconds should start to leave the corner, and the stool removed.) Scypion rushed across the ring and was stopped by Eskin. Eskin waved to Classen to get off his stool, and Minuto belatedly removed the stool and pushed Classen toward the center of the ring. They did not touch gloves as is customary before the start of the last round. (I did not realize this until I viewed the film).

Scypion threw a straight left, and two devastating rights. Classen fell backwards through the ropes and was caught by Eskin and the seconds who were still on the ring apron. They laid him gently outside the ropes.

Three questions have to be answered: 1-Should Classen have been permitted to answer the bell for the tenth round? 2-Who was ultimately responsible for this decision? and 3-What can be done to prevent this tragedy from repeating itself in the future?

Should Classen have been permitted to answer the bell for the tenth round?

Obviously, because we knew Willie Classen died, the fight should have been stopped. But that is like saying John Kennedy should not have gone to Dallas on November 22, 1963. I was at the fight. I was also judging the fight. To judge a fight you have to pay close attention to every aspect of the fight. My impression at the time between the ninth and tenth rounds was that Willie Classen was a very tired fighter. He had been hit with several hard body punches. As early as the second round I noticed that his legs were shaky. I questioned whether he was in the best of shape. After he was examined by the doctors I thought that Eskin should have stopped the fight if he had given any indication that he couldn't defend himself. Then everything happened so quickly. Only three punches and it was too late. How could anyone predict that this would happen? If he had been alright, nobody would have said a word.

Who was ultimately responsible for this decision?

The doctors examined Classen before round 10. He seemed lucid and able to continue. Referee Lew Eskin conferred with the doctors. They informed him of this. He spoke with Classen and Classen told him he was alright. After all this, Classen's manager Marco Minuto still could have stopped the fight.

Four years ago in the famous "Thriller in Manila", Eddie Futch, Frazier's trainer, stopped the fight before the fifteenth round

because Frazier couldn't see out of his left eye. The doctors weren't going to stop the fight. The referee wasn't going to stop the fight. The heavyweight championship was at stake, and the fight was virtually even. There were only three minutes left. "Only three more minutes," Eddie Futch said later. "I'm not a timekeeper. I'm a handler of fighters."

What can be done to prevent a tragedy like this from occurring in the future?

Willie Classen should never have entered the ring on that fatal night. He was knocked down three times and knocked out by Tony Sibson a little more than a month before, in London. He complained of double vision after the fight. Marco Minuto knew this and still he was brave enough to match him with an undefeated knockout artist, Wilford Scypion, for a whopping $1500. He lied to the New York State Athletic Commission and said the fight was stopped on cuts.

Whether or not this knowledge would have saved Classen's life is debatable. But the New York State Athletic Commission is in the process of installing a computer system that will have information on the condition of hundreds of fighters around the world. This idea goes back to the beginning of last year when chairman Jack Prenderville said, "The WBC has everything computerized, which involves 1200 fighters. We are looking into the possibility of hooking up with their computer with a terminal to be placed in our office. This would give us instant information on a fighter who is booked in New York. We would know his medical history, and whether he has been suspended or KO'd recently. This would safeguard against overmatching."

Would it have saved Willie Classen's life? I don't know, but it's certainly a start in the right direction.

There are other rule changes that should be looked into. Larger-size gloves would certainly prevent more head injuries. Amateur boxing uses the standing eight count. Maybe it should be judiciously used in the pros. Paramedical training for referees and cornermen would be helpful, so that they might recognize the early signs of head injuries. But most important of all, there must be a screening of unscrupulous managers who send their fighters out to fight like the Romans sent the Christians out to the lions.

The Marco Minutos of this world — just like the fictional fight manager played by Rod Steiger in "The Harder They Fall" — must be weeded out. And just as Humphrey Bogart ended this movie pounding on his typewriter, so must we all pound on ours until all such unworthies are eliminated. ■

DEATH IN THE RING: AN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By DAVE ANDERSON

The heat is on boxing now. It always is after a fighter dies. The politicians demand investigations. The commission promises reforms. The heat always generates some changes for the better. But the changes are always too late to help the fighter who died. They are also too late to help the fighter whose punches killed him. Wilford Scypion will be haunted by the memory of Willie Classen. "Willie Classen has been in my prayers constantly," Wilford Scypion has said. "I even pray for forgiveness if I'm guilty of anything." But the only thing that Wilford Scypion is guilty of is that, as a boxer, he assumed the same risk that Willie Classen did. Blame boxing or blame Willie Classen's handlers or blame the referee. But don't blame Wilford Scypion — although he might be blaming himself.

For the rest of his boxing career, perhaps for the rest of his life, Wilford Scypion's toughest opponent might be himself.

The tragic irony of the Texas middleweight's situation is that Emile Griffith was working in his corner a week ago Friday night at the Felt Forum in the fatal bout. And when Willie Classen had to be taken in an ambulance to Bellevue Hospital for brain surgery, boxing followers remembered that Emile Griffith's punches once killed Benny (Kid) Paret in the old Madison Square Garden in 1962.

"It flashed on me too," Emile Griffith recalled, "but I tried not to think of it."

Emile Griffith has always tried not to think of it, but the memory is always with him. At the weigh-in Paret had called Griffith a homosexual. "I hate him so much for what he said," Griffith said later, "that I wanted to kill him." Not really kill him, of course, but "kill" is part of boxing's vernacular. Knock him out, punish him, and regain the world welterweight title, that's what Emile Griffith wanted to do to Benny Paret — not really kill him. But as it happened, Emile Griffith did kill him.

"My accident," Emile Griffith always has called it. "My accident with the late Benny."

For weeks after that fight, Emile Griffith had a recurring dream. In it, he would see Benny Paret walking toward him and he would say, "How are you, Kid," and reach out for Paret's hand. But instead of taking his hand, Emile Griffith would wake up in a sweat. And seven months later he was in his Garden dressing room, waiting to fight Don Fullmer, when suddenly he walked into the bathroom. Howard Albert, one of his managers, followed him.

"I'm afraid," Griffith said.

"What are you afraid of?" Albert asked. "Fullmer's nothing to be afraid of."

"No," said Griffith softly, "I'm afraid of Paret."

Once in the ring, Emile Griffith conquered the memory. He held the world middleweight and welterweight titles a total of five times before finally retiring in 1977 — 15 years after Paret's death. Sugar Ray Robinson also conquered the memory. Before retiring in 1965 at 45, he won the middleweight title five times. As the welterweight champion he had a dream the night before a 1947 title bout with Jimmy Doyle in Cleveland. In the dream, he knocked down Doyle, who was not moving and he could hear people yelling, "He's dead, he's dead." That's when Sugar Ray woke up. At the weigh-in, he tried to call off the fight, but the promoter talked him out of it. That night his dream came true.

At the inquest the next day, the coroner asked, "Did you intend to get Doyle in trouble?"

"Mister," said Robinson quietly but firmly, "it's my business to get him in trouble."

Put that in Webster's dictionary as a definition of boxing. But not every fighter conquers the memory of having killed an opponent. Back in 1950 a middleweight named Lavern Roach died after having been knocked out at the old St. Nicholas Arena by Georgie Small, who used to sit and talk with the former Marine when they trained together at Stillman's Gym. Georgie Small was never the same after that. Within a few years he drifted into oblivion.

The only thing I ever done in my whole life," Georgie Small once said, "was kill a friend of mine."

In another 1950 bout, Sonny Boy West died after a knockout by Percy Bassett at St. Nick's, and nine months later Georgie Flores died after a knockout by 20-year-old Roger Donoghue at the Garden — Flores had been knocked out three times in only five weeks. That's when the State Athletic Commission put in the rule that a fighter has to take a mandatory 30-day rest after a knockout. But after two more fights, Roger Donoghue, a tall middleweight who had learned to punch in the back room of a Yonkers pool hall, walked away from boxing. But not away from the memory.

"I know you," a youngster once said to him. "You killed a man. I'm going to tell everybody."

"You don't have to tell everybody," Roger Donoghue replied softly. "They already know."

When you think of Willie Classen, say a prayer for him. And say a prayer for Wilford Scypion, too. ■

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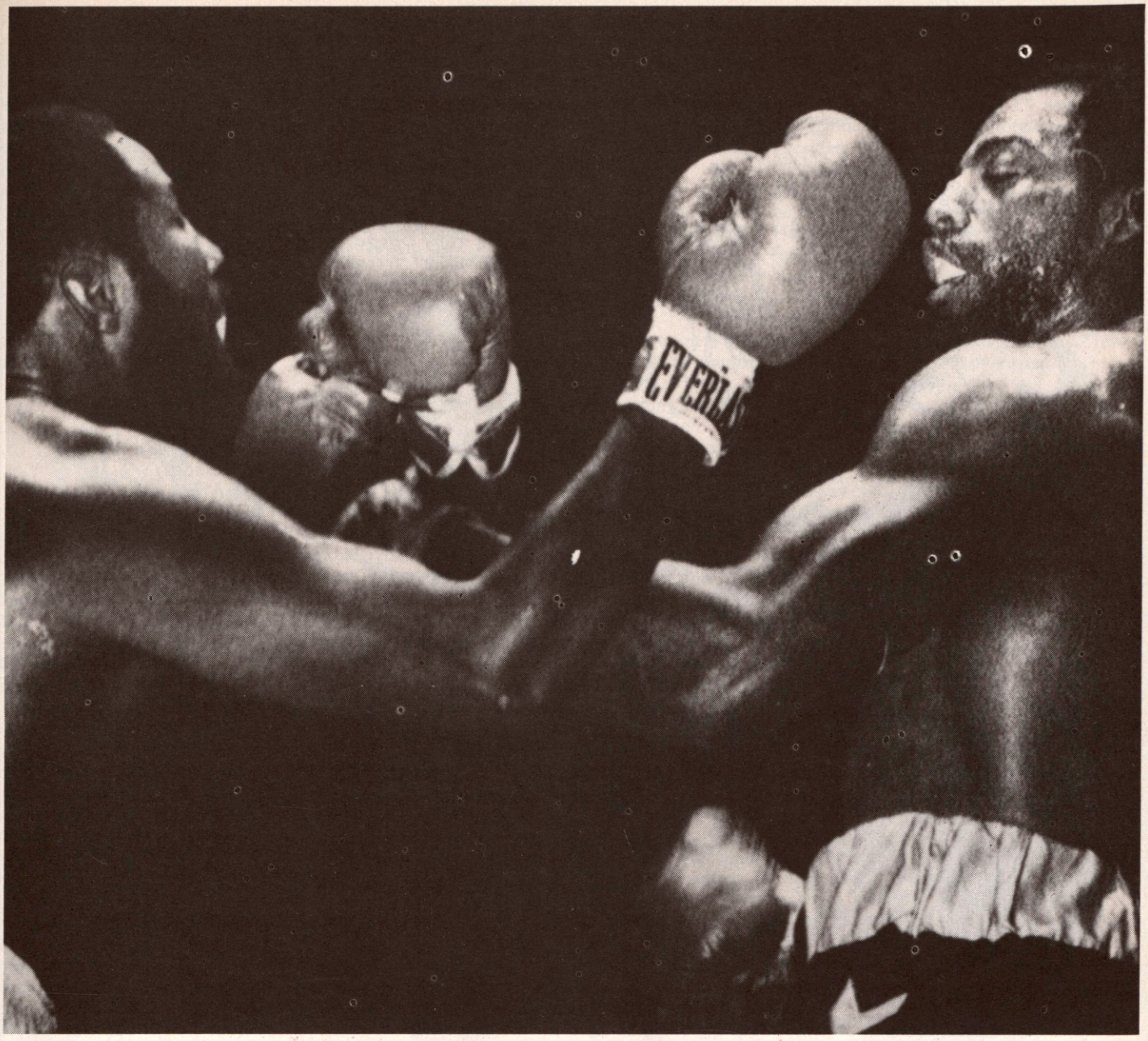
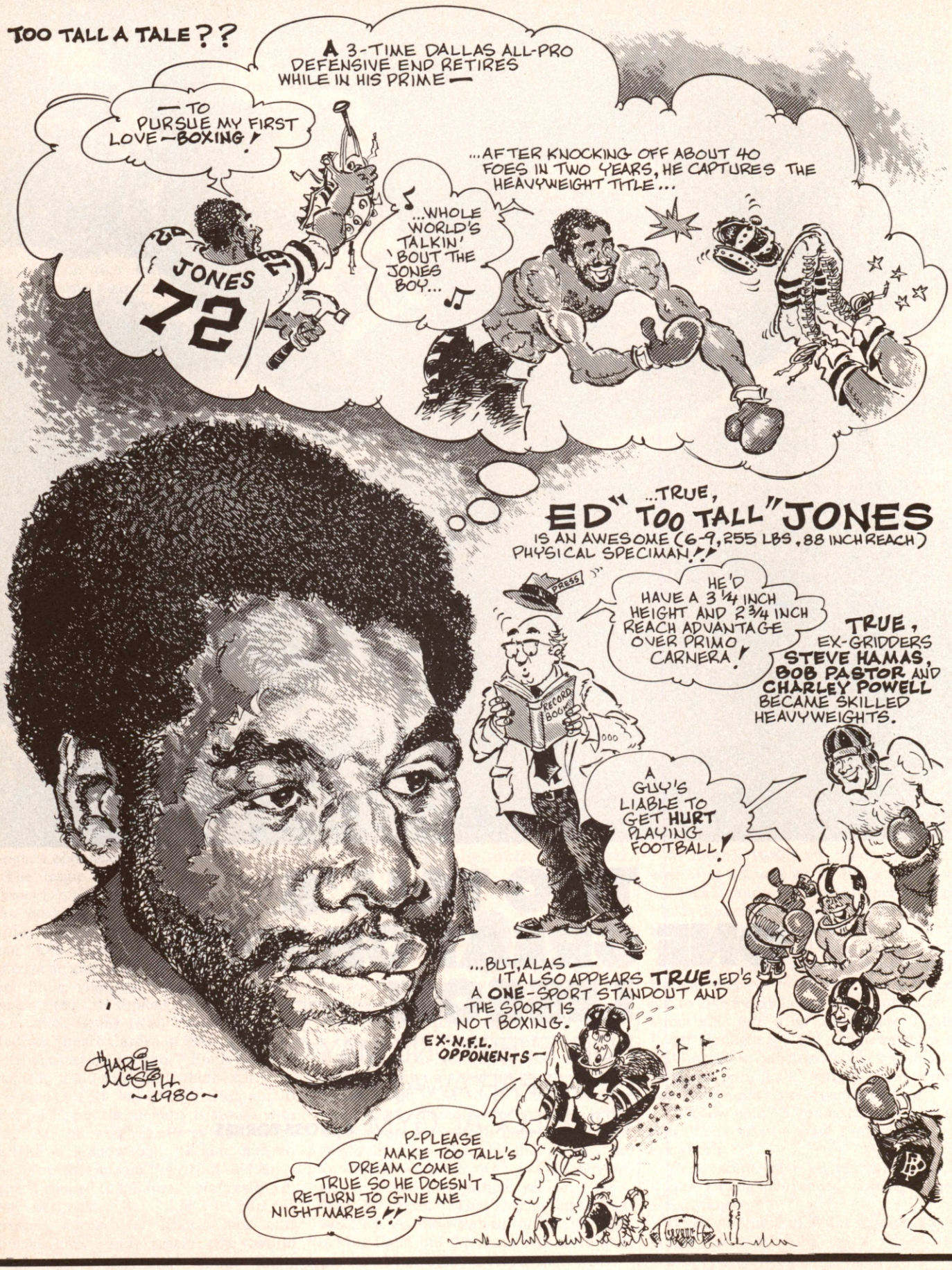


TOO TALL'S ONE GREAT OBJECT LESSON

HOPE FOR EVERYONE MAY ONLY BE AS FAR AWAY AS YOUR LOCAL GYM

By JOSE TORRES

WIN, LOSE AND DRAW By CHARLIE McGILL



It was the comeback itch. I was quietly watching pseudo-prize-fighter "Too Tall" Jones employ his gargantuan frame in a non-functional exercise called practical inertia and suddenly *my* quite unfunctional boxer's frame jumped up. My eyes turned to the television set and as Jones was pushed into the canvas and then punched while on the floor, a mysterious force raised my arms, put my closed fists on my cheekbones and a left jab slipped out . . . to my surprise. Then there was an involuntary right cross that couldn't crack an egg but somehow would have demolished this huge matter with no active properties on the TV set. I was overwhelmed by the comeback itch.

Later, the 11 o'clock news caught me chasing a shadow around my room and suddenly the mention of Too Tall Jones provoked my by now overworked physique to stop. I heard what really convinced me that a comeback to the ring was inevitable: Jones had received more than $72,000 to expose his 6-foot-9 inch uncommon-to-a-boxer bodily constitution to the world. He made, on his first professional fight, as much money as I received in my first 23 fights as a real fighter.

I went out automatically and ran one mile in about one hour. I rested for two hours and while everyone in my house was sound asleep I sneaked out and went to the Gramercy Gym. With a wrench and the encouragement of Too Tall, I easily broke down the door.

I then proceeded to go all out to get my mind and body in top condition for the fight of my life. So, my body, proud of its past, provided me with its maximum effort: half a round on the heavy bag, 30 seconds on the speed bag. I jumped rope for 41 seconds and shadow-boxed for more than two minutes. I also did two and half push-ups and three sit-ups. I then laid down for one hour, struggled back to the car, went home to sleep and, surprisingly, I was able to smile. That was during the wee hours of Saturday night before Sunday's sunrise.

Monday morning I got up at 6, skipped road work and went directly to the gym. Again, the door had to be destroyed. This time I only worked half as hard as the day before and proclaimed myself ready for Too Tall Jones. The comeback was now a reality!

Society says that you must consult your friends and your family if you are to undertake such a serious move, so Monday about 11 p.m. I called my friend Pete Hamill.

"No he ain't here," a sleepy voice said on the other end. "He was acting strange all day," the voice continued, "and finally about an hour ago he put on a sweat suit and flew out of the house. Two minutes ago he called up saying that he was at this number. Don't say that I gave it to you. He said it was a secret."

I called the number and let the phone ring 27 times. Then I heard Pete's breathless voice. "Yes," he was able to say. When he heard my voice he put a hand over the phone, but not before I could recognize the distinctive sound of a punching bag in the background.

"Hey Pete, what's that?" I said. Pete began to stutter, matching the erratic sound of the bag.

"I'm at Breslin's. He's building a swimming pool. That sound is the hammer."

He sounded weird. So I decided not to reveal my comeback decision to him. Instead, I called my friend, former welterweight Benny. His girlfriend and *compañera* Toledo was nervous when she answered the phone. "He's here but ordered me not to disturb him while he runs around the house. Since yesterday he's been eating like an elephant and his hands are bruised from hitting every wall available." Her voice faded away. "That was Benny. He just threw his best punch at me and I simply bent down. He can't even hit me."

"Yes," I heard Benny echo, "but 'Too Tall Jones' wouldn't be able to evade it. You are better than him."

Toledo said in a whisper, "It's a secret, but he's making a comeback — as a heavyweight."

Then I called my friend Norman Mailer, reluctantly. I knew that if he had seen Too Tall Jones fight, no force could stop Mailer from making extra money from his favorite sport. One of the most honest persons I've ever met in my life, Mailer said, "You called me. I didn't call you. So here it is. I'm giving it a try."

I played dumb. "What do you mean?" I said.

The answer came out with the force and determination of a sure thing. "You're the second person to know this, but I called my literary agent and ordered him to begin negotiations for a Mailer-Too Tall Jones fight."

"It would be life-and-death," I confided with the same honesty with which he had made his confession to me. And loyal to a friend whom I've been training almost every Saturday for many years, I decided that I would give up my comeback and train Mailer instead.

"Check around to see who else is interested in fighting Too Tall Jones," Mailer said. But I first made a list of some people who would kill Jones in a boxing ring.

First on that list was Ryan O'Neal. He would take two rounds; my brother Andresito, 45 and a 147-pounder, would outjab Jones silly; Dick Young of the New York *Daily News*; the entire CBS-TV news staff. Ted Kennedy would have more trouble with President Carter than with Too Tall; author Gay Talese, who deviated from boxing training for the past several years, would be life-and-death with Jones today. Even Howard Cosell can have his day and be really big in boxing if Jones takes a chance with him.

There are only two people in the boxing ranks who could have serious troubles with Jones: Mayor Koch and the Rev. Jesse Jackson. They are both overrated.

But for the sake of my friend Mailer, I made my calls. And, yes, there will be competition for him. It will not be easy for Mailer to get the first crack at Jones. Madison Square Garden boxing man Gil Clancy was out training Garden publicist John Condon; Puerto Rican spiritualists swore that names like Jack Hurley, Nat Fleischer, Jim Norris and many other boxing grandparents have inundated the world of the occult in an effort to come back and face Jones someday.

When promoter Don King's secretary told me that her boss was doing his daily roadwork, I knew that he was also training for Too Tall Jones. He had never seen a path where people run for pleasure or for vocation.

My last call was to promoter Bob Arum, King's major competitor in the fight racket. "He's out at Gleason's Gym, "I was told. I couldn't believe it. "You mean he is also in training for Too Tall," I screamed into the phone.

"No," I was told. "He's training someone."

"Who?"

"Barbra Streisand." ■

Texas Representative Clay Smothers has challenged Ed "Too Tall" Jones to a three-round bout that would force either the fighter or the politician to retire.

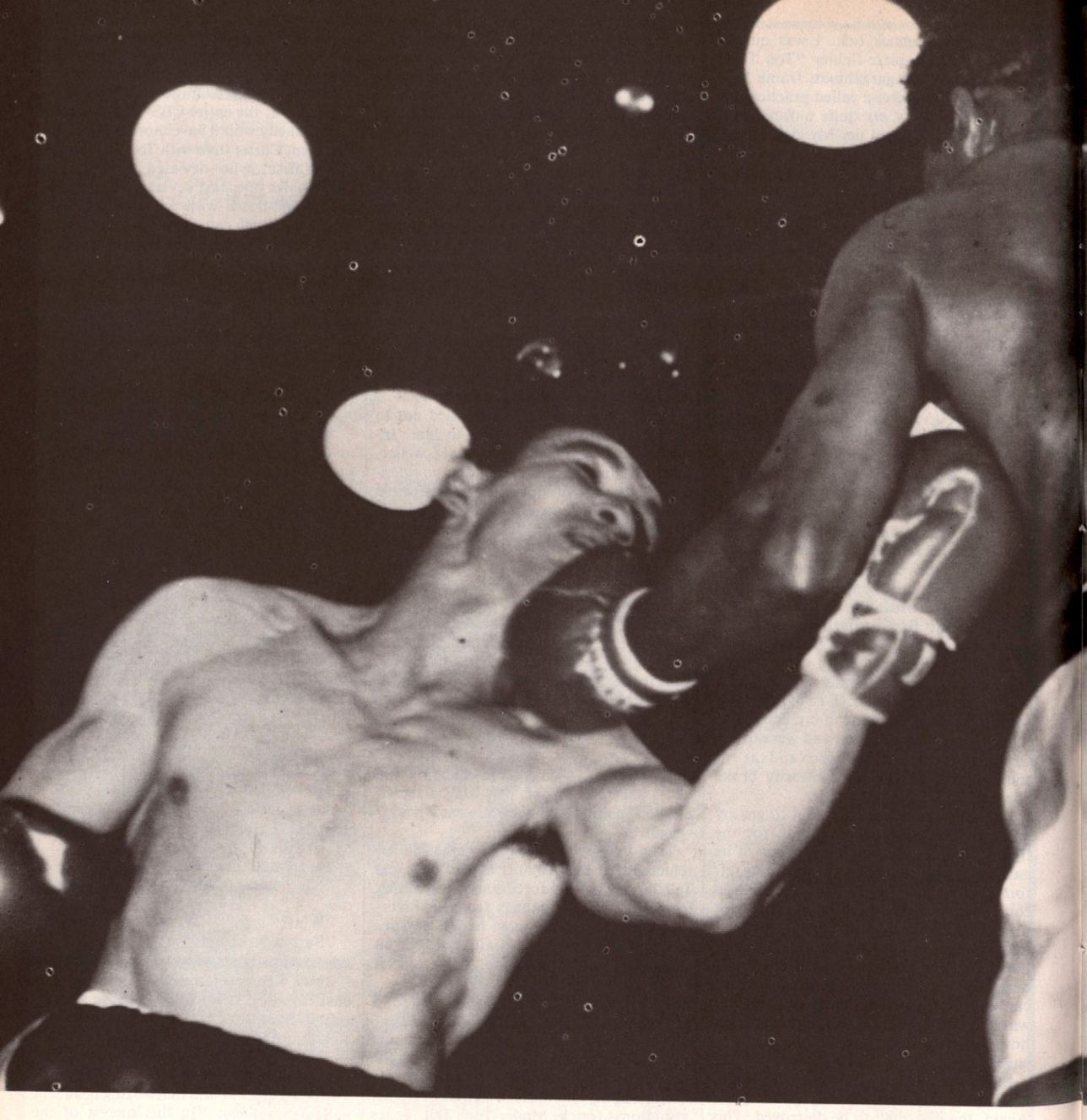
The Texan Democrat is convinced that the Dallas Cowboys are in dire need of Jones' services — and that boxing is not!

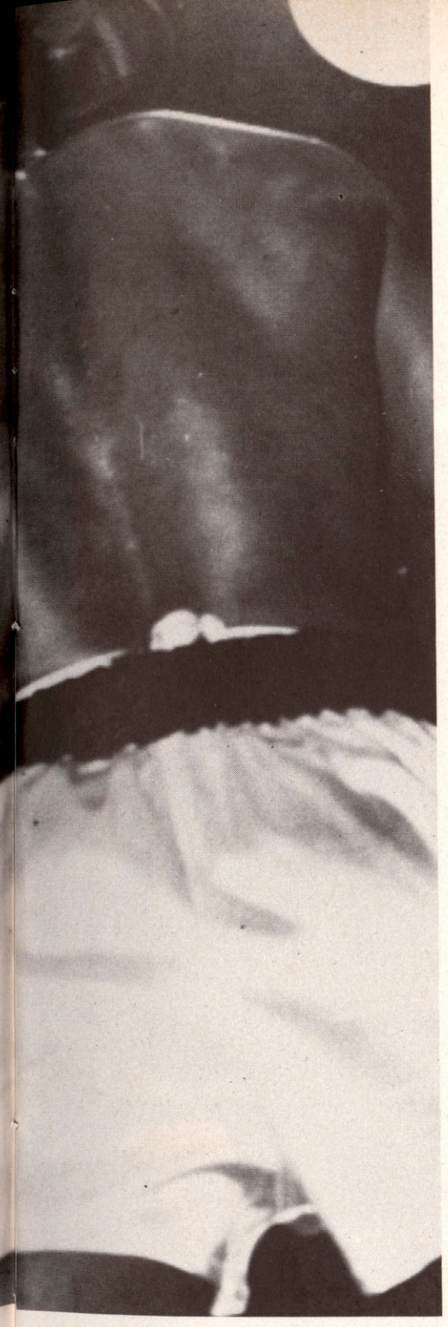
Said Smothers: "In the interest of the Dallas Cowboys, Ed 'Too Tall' Jones, and canvases everywhere, I would like to present this challenge: Should I win one of the three rounds, or should I finish three rounds standing up, you immediately terminate your boxing career and return to the Cowboys.

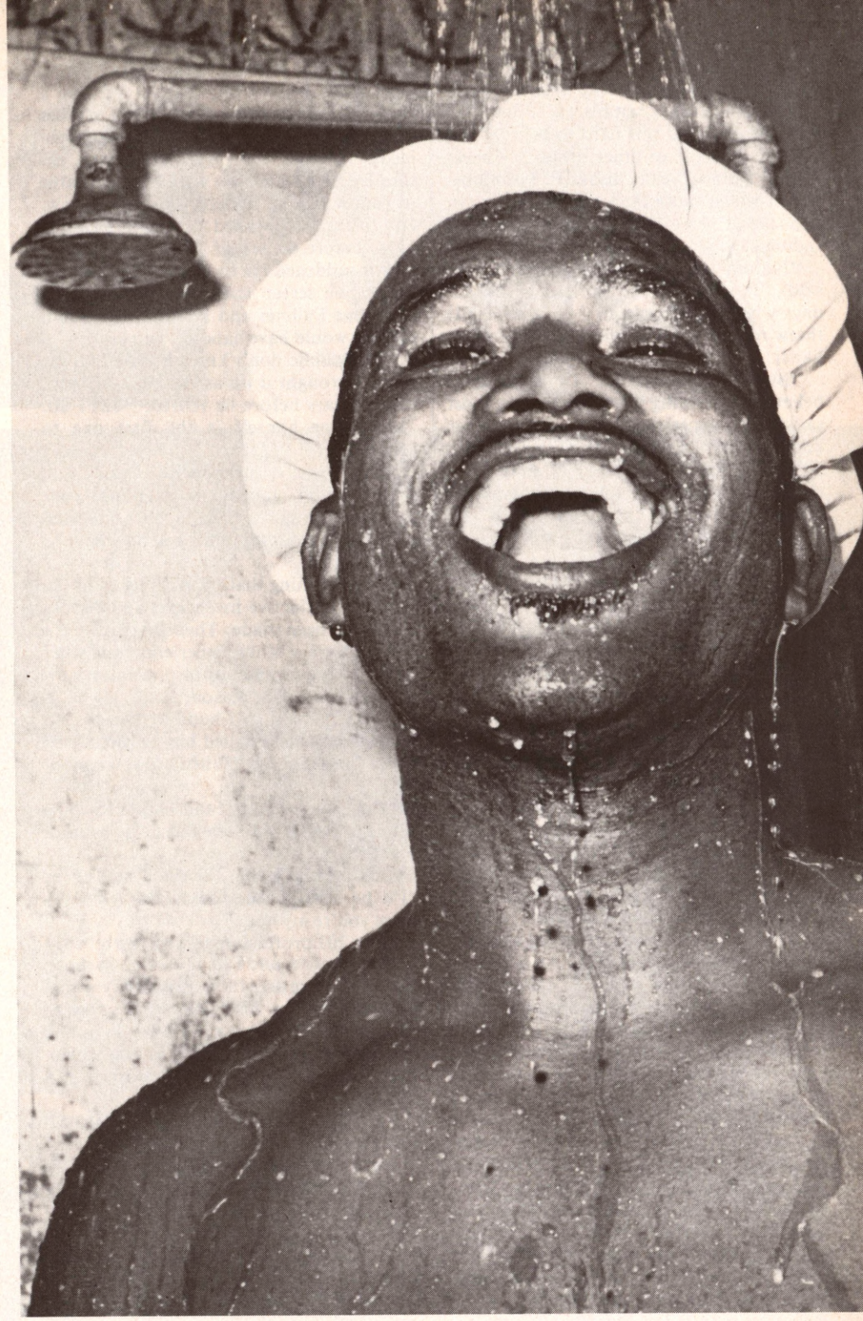
"Should I suffer a technical knockout or a knockout, I quit politics forever."

The challenge letter was signed by Smothers, "a great football fan." Perhaps he is an equally great boxing fan!

Jose Torres is the former light heavyweight champion of the world and current columnist for Newsworld.







"When I am old," I wrote more than twenty years ago, "I shall tell them about Ray Robinson. When I was young, I used to hear the old men talk of Joe Gans and Terry McGovern and Kid McCoy. They told of the original Joe Walcott and Sam Langford, of Stanley Ketchel and Mickey Walker and Benny Leonard. How well any of them really knew those men I'm not sure, but it seemed to me that some of the greatness of those fighters rubbed off on these others just because they lived at the same time.

SUGAR BOXING'S GREATEST POUND-FOR-POUND RAY ROBINSON FOR FOUR DECADES THE SUGARMAN REIGNED SUPREME

22 *From the book ONCE THEY HEARD THE CHEERS Copyright © 1979 by W.C. Heinz Published by Doubleday & Company. Inc.*

"That is the way," I wrote. "I plan to use Sugar Ray. When the young assault me with their atomic miracles and reject my Crosby records and find comical the movies that once moved me, I shall entice them into talking about fighters. Robinson will be a form of social security for me, because they will have seen nothing like him, and I am convinced that they never will."

I am still sure today that they will never be able to match Robinson because of the social changes that were altering life in this country while he fought. The prejudice that drove the black — as before him it drove the Irish, the Jew, and then the Italian — to the ring in desperation is becoming a part of our past. In an age of reason fewer men are forced to fight with their fists, the amateurs are not what they used to be, the bootleg circuit, where Robinson received his intermediate schooling, is long gone, and the professional game has been on the decline for twenty-five years.

Ray Robinson — and Archie Moore, the venerable Sage of San Diego and the greatest ring mechanic I ever saw — were the last of the old-fashioned fighters because they fought from the end of one era through the beginning of another, and because they were the products of poverty as well as prejudice. Robinson was eight years old when his mother brought him and his two older sisters from Detroit to New York, and tried to support them on the fifteen dollars a week she made working in a laundry. Robinson sold firewood he gathered in a wagon under the West Side Highway and as far south as the Bowery. On Saturdays and Sundays he shined

shoes, and at night he danced for coins on the sidewalks off Broadway. For him, as for all those others of that time, the fight game was a court of last resort.

"You may find this hard to believe," he told me a couple of times, "but I've never loved fightin'. I really dislike it. I don't believe I watch more than two fights a year, and then it has to be some friend of mine fightin'.

"Fightin', to me, seems barbaric," he said. "It seems to me like the barbarous days when men fought in a pit and people threw money down to them. I really don't like it."

"But at the same time," I said, "I must believe that fighting has given you the most satisfying experiences you have ever known."

"That's right," he said. "I enjoy outthinkin' another man and out-maneuverin' him, but I still don't like to fight."

I believed him then, and I still do, because of something else he once told me and that one of his sisters confirmed. On the streets of Detroit and New York he ran from fights.

"I would avoid fightin'," he said, "even if I had to take the short end. I'd even apologize when I knew I was right. I got to be known as a coward, and my sisters used to fight for me. They used to remark that they hoped that some day I'd be able to take care of myself."

How able he became is in the record. He began fighting when he was fifteen, and he had 160 amateur and bootleg-amateur fights before he turned pro. As a professional he not only won the welterweight championship of the world, but he won the middleweight title for the fifth time when he was thirty-seven and he went fifteen rounds trying for it again when he was forty. He was only forty-five when he finally retired in 1965, and in 361 fights, amateur and pro, over thirty years, he failed to finish only once. On that June night in 1952, when he boxed Joey Maxim for the light-heavyweight title, giving away fifteen pounds, it was 104 degrees under the Yankee Stadium ring lights, so brutally hot and humid that Ruby Goldstein, the referee, had to be replaced in the eleventh round. Robinson was giving Maxim a boxing lesson, and seemed on his way to winning yet another title, when he collapsed in his corner at the end of the thirteenth.

While Willie Pep was the greatest creative artist I ever saw in a ring, Sugar Ray Robinson remains the greatest fighter, pound-for-pound and punch-for-punch, of more than a half century, or since Benny Leonard retired with the lightweight title in 1924. Perhaps it is foolish to try to compare them, for Pep was a poet, often implying, with his feints and footwork, more than he said, as that night when he won a round without even throwing a punch. Robinson was the master of polished prose, structuring his sentences, never wasting a word, and, as he often did, taking the other out with a single punch. That was the Robinson, however, that most Americans, enthralled by him as they were but who came to follow boxing on television, never saw. His talent had peaked between 1947 and 1950, before the era of TV boxing and before it saddened me to watch him years later on the screen struggling with fighters like Gene Fullmer and Paul Pender whom once he would have handled with ease.

"The public don't know it," he told me when I brought it up as far back as 1950, fifteen years before he retired, "but I do. The fighter himself is the first one to know."

"And how does he know it?" I said.

"You find you have to think your punches," he said. "The punches you used to throw without thinkin', you now have to reason."

It is something that happens to all of us, once the instinctive inventions and discoveries have been made. Then we reach back into the library of our experience, and what was once the product of inspiration is now merely the result of reason.

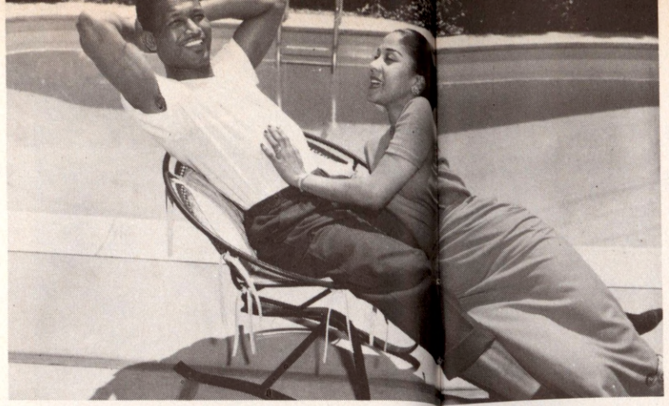
"How are you, old buddy?" he said on the phone, when I called him before flying out to Los Angeles. "When are you comin' out?"

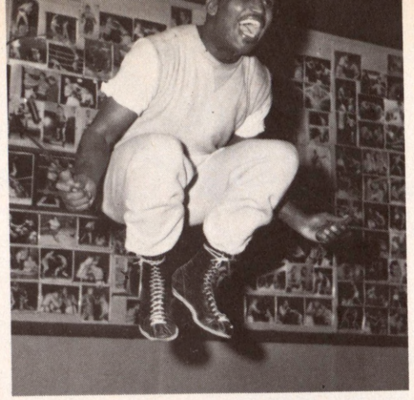
"I'm fine," I said, "and I want to come out next week if you'll be there. How about next Friday?"

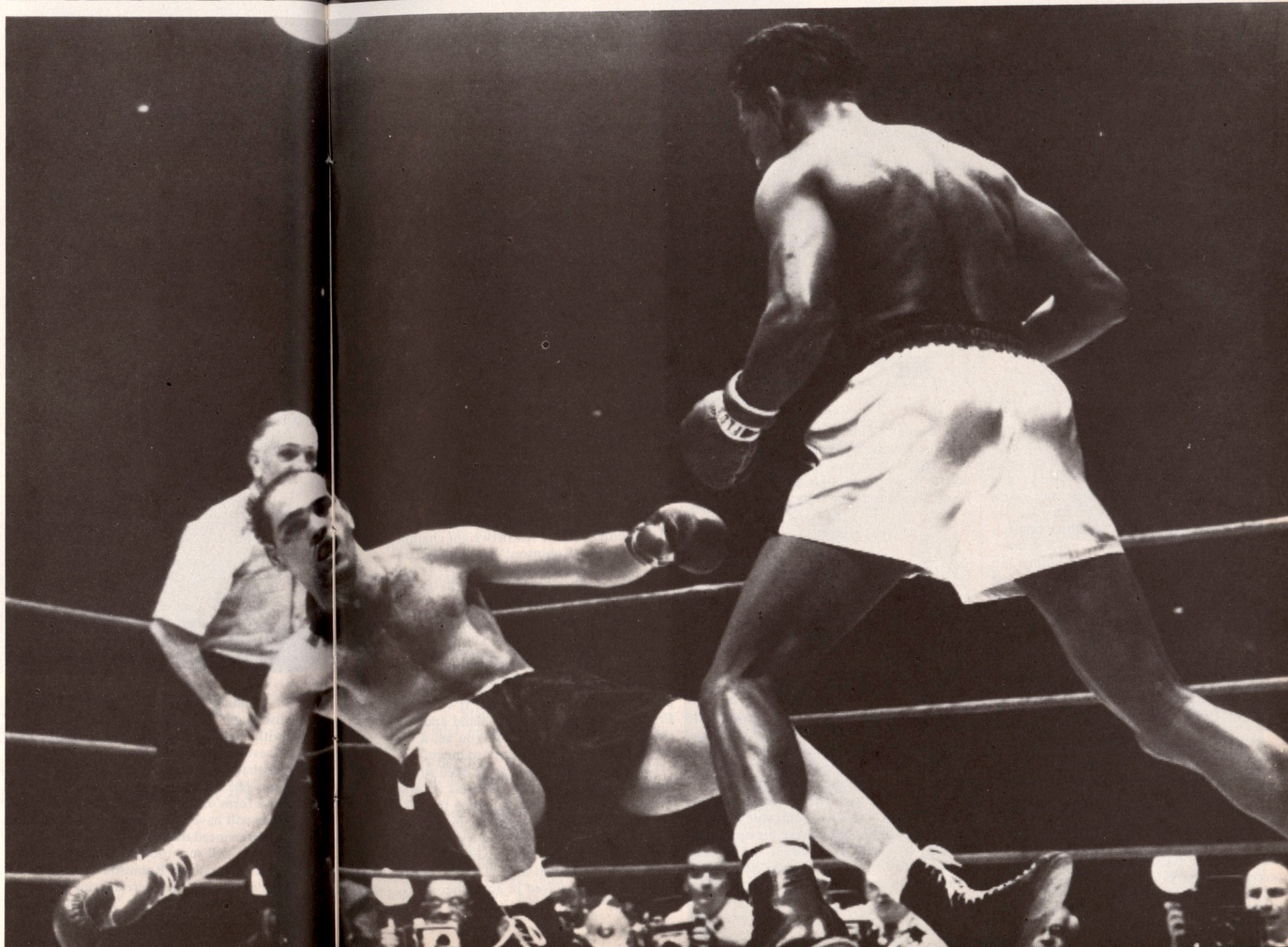
"Let me check that," he said, and then, "I'll be here. I'll be lookin' for you, because you're my man."

In his 201 professional fights, he hit fifty or more towns, and I imagine that in most, if not all, there are still writers today whom he annointed as his "man." He was as smooth outside the ring as he was in it, and under pressing interrogation he was as elusive, but until you found that out he was a charmer.

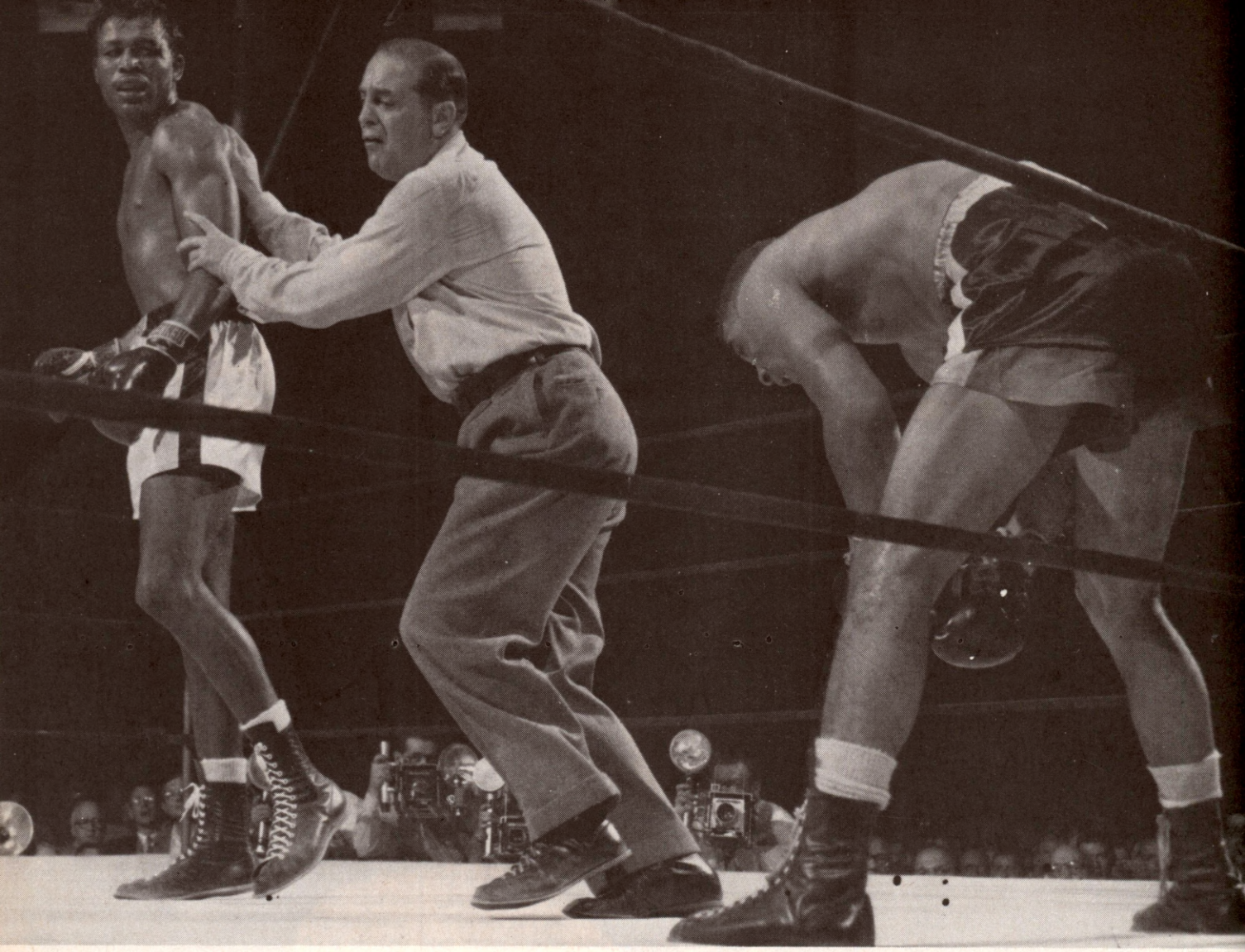
I met him first in the spring of 1946. Already unquestionably the best welterweight in the world, he was unable to get a shot at the title, and he had hired a press agent named Pete Vaccare. We were sitting, late one morning, in Vaccare's office in the old Brill Building on Broadway, waiting for Robinson as, I was to find out, one almost inevitably did, when we heard singing out in the hall. Then the door opened, and they came in, Robinson and Junius ("June") Clark, whom he called his secretary, both of them in heavy road clothes topped off by red knitted skating caps, for they had







top: Private citizen Robinson poses with then-wife Edna (left), practices for first Fullmer fight (center) and plays with manager George Gainford and son, Ray Jr.
right: Robinson sends then-middleweight champion Carl "Bobo" Olson to the canvas in the second round to win "his" crown back after a two-year layoff, Dec. 9, 1955.



been running on the Harlem Speedway, and they finished the song. It was "The Very Thought of You," with Robinson carrying the melody and Clark improvising, and they ended it with a soft-shoe step and a hand flourish, and amid the laughter, we were introduced. We talked, with Robinson telling how he once stole so much from a grocery store that the owner gave him a job as a delivery boy to protect his stock, and how the minister who caught him in a crap game on the steps of the Salem Methodist Episcopal Church took him inside and introduced him to boxing.

"I've just met Ray Robinson," I said to Wilbur Wood when I got back to the office that afternoon. "He's quite a guy."

"Oh, no," Wilbur said. "He conned you too."

"What do you mean, conned me?" I said.

"Hang around the fight game a little longer," Wilbur said, "and you'll find out."

In the fight game they like fighters who will fight anybody anywhere at any time and leave the business end to their managers. After he won the welterweight title, with George Gainford doing the dickering, Robinson made his own deals, and I knew a New York boxing writer who had collected two dozen complaints against him from promoters around the country.

"The trouble with Robinson," another one told me one day at lunch in Lindy's, "is that every time I get ready to bomb him, he shows up at some hospital or at the bedside of some sick kid. He's always one move ahead of you."

"As he is in the ring," I said.

There was about him an air of humble superiority, a contrariety that annoyed and frustrated those who tried to come to know him. He would plead humility and reserve a pew in church for Easter Sunday. At big fights, when other notables gathered for their introductions in the ring before the main event, Robinson would wait beyond the ringside rows and receive his applause apart as he came down the aisle and, all grace, vaulted through the ropes. He was a man who was trying to find something he had lost even before he turned professional.

"The biggest thrill I ever got," he told me once, "was when I won the Golden Gloves and they streamed that light down on me in Madison Square Garden and said, 'The Golden Gloves featherweight champion, Sugar Ray Robinson!' I bought the paper. I read about it over and over. It was more of a thrill than when I won the welterweight championship of the world.

"Once I read," he said — and he even read law, fascinated by its contradictions — "something that King Solomon said. He said, 'The wiser a man gets the less beauty he finds in life.' If I try to explain that to people they don't understand. It's like the first time you go to Coney Island and you ride the chute-the-chute and you get a big thrill. The second time it isn't so much."

Few fighters have been as disliked within their profession and by its press as was Robinson while he was struggling to make his way, and the fight game was, in part, responsible for that. In this country, from the turn of the century on, boxing gave the black man, because it needed him, a better break than he received in any other sport,

but it only gave him what it had to. For years, while Mike Jacobs ran big-time boxing, he refused Robinson that chance at the welterweight title.

"Mike explained that to me," Robinson told me once. "He explained that I'd kill the division. He said, 'I got to have two or three guys fightin' for the title. You'd darken the class.' I understand that. That's good business."

I am sure he understood it, but he did not have to like it. In his early days, in order to get fights, he had to take less money than the opponents he knocked out. Once, after he had trained for three weeks for a fight, the promoter ran out. A couple of years later, Jacobs promised him $2,000 beyond his small purse if he would box for a Boston promoter to whom Jacobs owed a favor. When, after the fight, Robinson showed up for his money, Jacobs ridiculed him.

"You didn't think I'd go into my own kick," Mike said, "for some other guy's fight."

They tried to do it to him in the ring too. There was the story that Duke Stefano, then a manager of fighters, was telling me one afternoon in Stillman's Gym.

"I remember Robinson one night when he was just starting out as a pro," Duke said. "Just before the fight, Robinson complained that he had a bad ear, and he didn't want to go through with the fight. It was his left ear, and they looked into it, and you could see it was red and swollen.

"The other guy's manager — he was from New Jersey — looked at it and he said, 'Look, my guy is just an opponent. Go through with the fight, and I promise you he won't touch the ear.' Robinson said, 'Okay, long as he stays away from my ear.' Well, the bell rang, and the other guy came out of his corner and winged a right hand at the ear. Robinson just turned his head and looked at the corner. The guy did it a second time, and Robinson looked at the manager again. The third time the guy tried it, Robinson stepped in with a hook and flattened him.

"The manager," Duke said, "turned right around and went back to New Jersey. He didn't even second another kid he had in the next bout."

Fritzie Zivic did it to him too, as he did to many others. He was the recently dethroned welterweight champion of the world when Robinson, in only his second year as a pro, outpointed him over ten rounds in Madison Square Garden. Ten weeks later he would knock Zivic out in ten.

"Fritzie Zivic," Robinson told me once, "taught me more than anybody I ever fought."

"What did he teach you?" I said.

"He taught me that a man can make you butt open your own eye," he said, and I appreciated the phrasing. He was one of the cleanest of fighters, and what he had learned from Zivic was not something that you did to another man, but that he could do to you.

"And how does a man do that?" I said.

"He slipped one of my jabs," Robinson said, "and reached his right glove around behind my head and pulled my head down on his."

Young Otto, who boxed the best lightweights during the first two decades of this century and was a great student of science, refereed that first fight. One day in Stillman's I asked him about it.

"In the sixth round," he said, "Robinson said to me, 'He's stickin' his thumbs in my eyes.' I said, 'You ain't no cripple.' After that he give it back to Zivic better than Zivic was givin' it to him. I said to myself then, 'This kid is gonna be a great fighter.' "

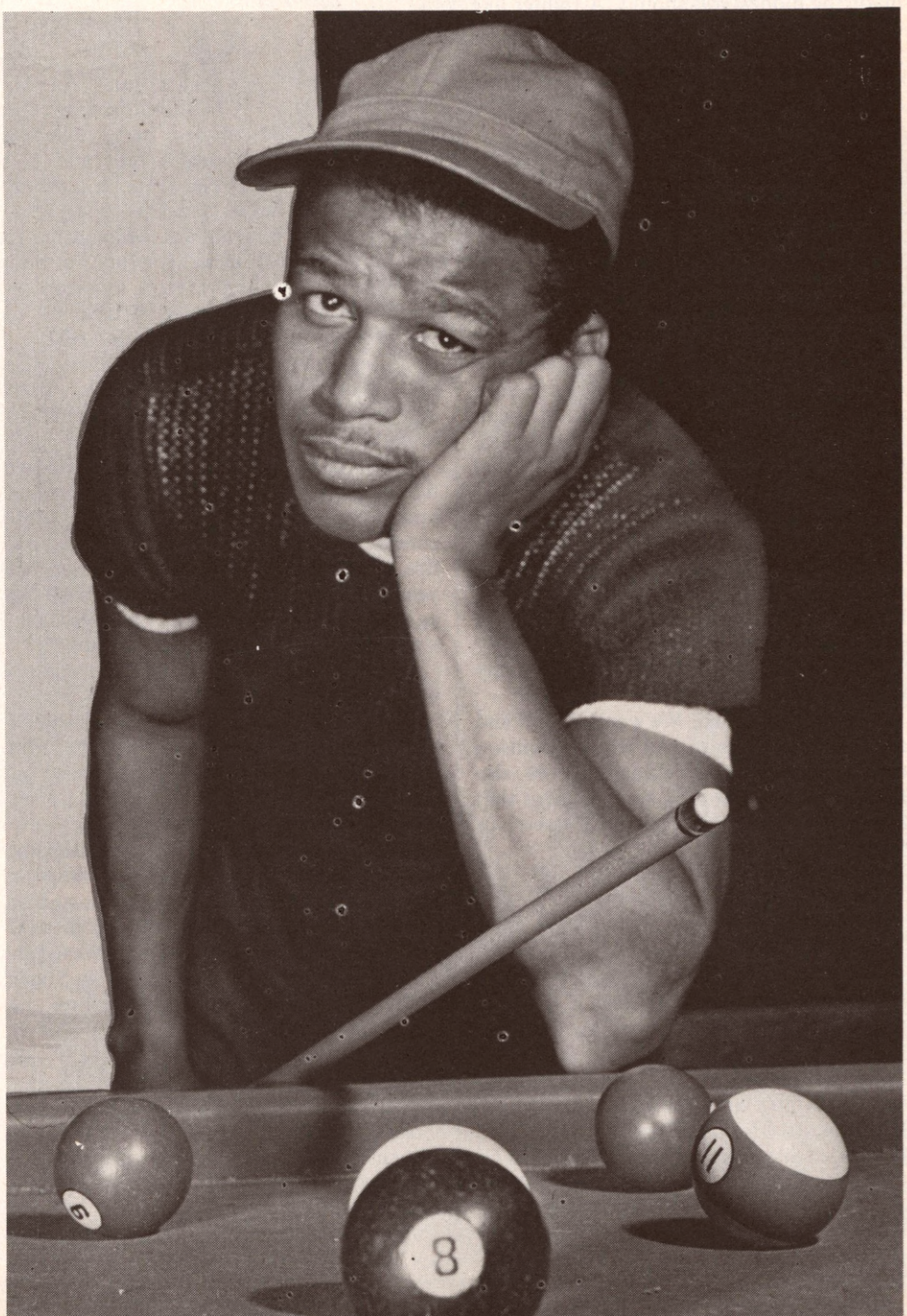
So they tried to use him and abuse him, and sometimes succeeded, in and out of the ring. When, in self-defense, he retaliated, he acquired the reputation that provoked *The Saturday Evening Post* to ask me to do a piece they were to entitle, "Why Don't They Like Ray Robinson?"

"This is a tough assignment for me," I said to him.

"How's that?" he said.

We were sitting in his office at Ray Robinson Enterprises, Inc., in Harlem, and he had his feet up on his triangular glass-topped desk. He owned most of the block on the west side of Seventh Avenue from

left: Robinson, being led away by referee Ruby Goldstein, in 10th round of bout with Randy Turpin, Sept. 12, 1951. Regains middleweight title with 10th round TKO.



123rd to 124th streets, and he had $250,000 tied up in the five-story apartment house, Sugar Ray's Bar and Restaurant, Edna Mae's Lingerie Shop, and Sugar Ray's Quality Cleaners, with its five outlets.

"I have to ask you the tough questions," I said.

"That's all right," he said. "Go ahead."

"I will," I said, "but I want to explain something first. I think this piece can do you a lot of good. You're unquestionably the greatest fighter since Benny Leonard and there are some old-timers who say you may be the best since Joe Gans, who died ten years before you were born."

"They say that?" he said, as if he hadn't known. "I appreciate that."

"My point is," I said, "that you should be the most popular fighter of your time, but you're not. There are raps against you in the fight game, and they keep bringing up your Army record and you've never made the money you should. A fighter like Graziano, who's a beginner compared to you and has a dishonorable discharge from the Army while you have an honorable one, has made twice as much as you have."

"That's right," he said.

"Part of that is style," I said. "All his fights are wars, and that's what the public likes, but it's style outside the ring, too. He's open and frank, and you're not, really. What I want to do is explain you. I want you to tell me what it's like to have a fine mind and great physical talents, to be a great artist but to be colored and to have that used against you in the fight game and out of it. It can explain a lot about you, and I'll understand. If I understand. I can make the readers understand, and as I said, that can mean a lot to you, if you'll level with me."

I really believed it. I believed if for about five minutes.

"If you can do that," he said, "I'll appreciate it. Nobody's ever done that for me before. You just ask me the questions, what you want to know."

"All right," I said. "Let's get the Army thing out of the way first."

It wasn't any good. We went around and around, as in a ring, and when Robinson couldn't counter my leads or even slip them, he professed only astonishment that I should hold such documented assertions to be facts.

There was something to be celebrated in his Army record. He had been a member of Casual Detachment 7, known as "The Joe Louis Troupe." Joe and he and four other fighters spent seven months touring camps in this country and putting on boxing exhibitions. In Florida, Robinson refused to box unless black troops were allowed to attend, and he, an enlisted man, faced down a general. At Camp Sibert, Alabama, a white M.P. saw Louis emerge from a phone booth in a so-called white territory, and he threatened to club Joe. Robinson took him on, the two rolling on the ground, and there was rioting by black troops before apologies were made to the two fighters.

It was a matter of Army record and common knowledge, however, that when the troupe sailed for Europe, from Pier 90, New York, on March, 31 1944, Robinson was not aboard. It was also in the record that he had previously declared his intention not to go, and that the Articles of War as they applied to the punishment for desertion had been explained to him.

"But why would a man say such a thing?" he said when I had read to him from the affidavit.

"He not only said it," I said, "but he swore to it."

"I can't understand that," Robinson said. "I never met that officer, and he never read me such things."

Years later, in his autobiography, he would state that he had been suffering from amnesia following a fall, and had been hospitalized for that before his honorable discharge as a sergeant on June 3, 1944. It was a book he had wanted me to write after he had retired for the first time in 1952. Because he preferred to avoid using elevators, as he also preferred not to fly, we had met late one afternoon with my agent and another, not in my agent's office on the twentieth floor of the Mutual of New York Building, but in the cocktail lounge of the Park Sheraton.

"I just can't do it, Ray," I said, after we had talked for a while, the others listening, and I had tried again. "There are those conflicting versions of those events in your life, in and out of boxing, and we tried two years ago in your office and we've tried again now, and we still can't resolve them. I'm sorry, but I just can't do the book."

"That's all right, old buddy," he said. "I understand."

I doubt that he did — why couldn't just put it all down the way he said, and possibly even believed it had been, and ignore the conflicts? And when I would see him after that it would always be in camp before his fights and I would be with others. Now I had heard that he was heading up a youth project in Los Angeles, and at ten o'clock on that Friday morning the taxi driver and I found it, finally, on West Adams Boulevard with the sign — Sugar Ray's Youth Foundation — fronting the one-story building.

"He's in conference right now," the woman said across the counter, and I had missed her name when she had introduced herself. "I don't think he'll be long, though."

"That's all right," I said. "I have plenty of time."

"Maybe while you're waiting," she said, "you'd like to look at some of our material."

"That would be fine," I said.

She went back to a desk, and while I waited I could hear the even tones of Robinson's voice, still familiar after all the years, in an office on the left. When she came back she handed me the several sheets of publicity and a folder from the 1976-77 "Miss Sugar Ray Teen Pageant." From a photograph I identified her as Thelma Smith, the executive secretary, and elsewhere I noted that Bob Hope is the foundation's honorary chairman, Robinson the chairman, and Wright Fillmore the president. I read about arts and crafts projects, costume making, karate instruction, talent shows, art classes, and workshops in beauty and personal development, drama, band and combo repertory, and dance.

"Old buddy!" he said, smiling and his face fuller and shaking hands across the counter. "How's my old buddy?"

"Fine," I said. "And you?"

"Just fine," he said. "come on in here and sit down and we'll talk."

I followed him to the middle desk at the back. He was wearing a blue leisure suit, the jacket over a dark blue-and-fuschia sports shirt. Once I had checked his wardrobe. He owned thirty-four suits, twenty-six pairs of shoes, nine sports jackets and as many pairs of slacks, six overcoats and four topcoats, most of which apparel he said he had neyer worn even once.

"You've gained some weight," I said.

As a fighter he was one of the most lithe and handsome of men. He moved with such grace and rhythm, in the ring and out, that watching him made me think of rubbing silk or satin between one's hands. During his first retirement, in fact, he tried it as a dancer, opening at the French Casino in New York for $15,000 a week. After that, it was downhill.

"Robinson was a good dancer, for a fighter," a Broadway booking agent told me, after Robinson had come back to knock out Bobo Olson and win the middleweight title the second time. "Maybe no other fighter ever danced as well, but the feature of his act was his change of clothes. He looked good in everything he put on."

He was leaning back now in the high-backed desk chair. Not only was his face fuller, but at fifty-six he was a lot heavier across the shoulders and chest and at the waist.

"Yeah, I'm heavier," he said now. "You see, I sit here with something on my mind, and I don't get the exercise I should. Every day, though, I try to take a five-mile walk."

"How heavy are you?"

"Oh, 183-84," he said, and he fought best at 147. "You see, you've got a certain ego about having been a champion, and you'd like to keep like that, but it's so diffi-

 Sugar Ray beats Carmen Basilio in 15 to regain middleweight championship for fourth — and final — time, Mar. 25, 1958. Chicago.

cult. There are temptations, and it takes will power. When you're fightin' you have to live by the rules, because when that bell rings condition is the name of the game. Even then, in camp, Joe Louis and I would go out in the boat and have quarts of ice cream and our trainers would get mad."

He reached into a desk drawer, and he brought out a package of Danish pastries. He tore one end off the transparent wrapper and took out one and, leaning back again, began eating.

"My breakfast," he said. "You know, the most important meal is breakfast."

"And that's your breakfast?"

"That's right," he said, "and Jack Blackburn used to get after Joe and me."

Blackburn was Louis's discoverer, teacher, and trainer. He developed Louis so precisely in the image of what he himself had been as a fighter that Louis had the same flaw that Blackburn had of dropping the left arm after a jab. It was what made Louis vulnerable to a straight right counter over the jab.

"Blackburn," Robinson was saying, "used to tell us, 'You got to eat breakfast.' Then they used to squeeze blood from the meat, and I'd drink that. From Monday through Friday I'd drink it. You have to get that from a slaughter house, and they put this blood in a can and I used to go down there and get it. I'll tell you, that's the most potent thing there is."

"I remember that you used to do that," I said. "Do you ever drink it now?"

"Every now and then I think I'll do it," he said, "but I don't."

He had finished the pastry and folded over the end of the package. He put the package back in the desk drawer.

"What brought you out here to California?" I said.

"My wife is from out here," he said. When he was fighting he was married to Edna Mae Holly. She had been a dancer and they had two sons, and I had not known he had remarried. "Joe Louis was goin' with a girl out here, and I met Millie through the recommendation of this other girl. You know, like a dog. You see something, and the ears go bong! We were married in 1965, and that's how I met Mr. Fillmore, and we started this foundation."

"Tell me about that."

"We went to London," he said, "and she was having her thirty-third or thirty-fourth birthday party, and . . ."

"Who was?" I said.

"Queen Elizabeth," he said. "Millie and I, we were invited and we went to the party. It was a wonderful ceremony, and Prince Phillip and I were talkin'. You remember those strikes?"

"What strikes?"

"I think it started in Berkeley," he said.

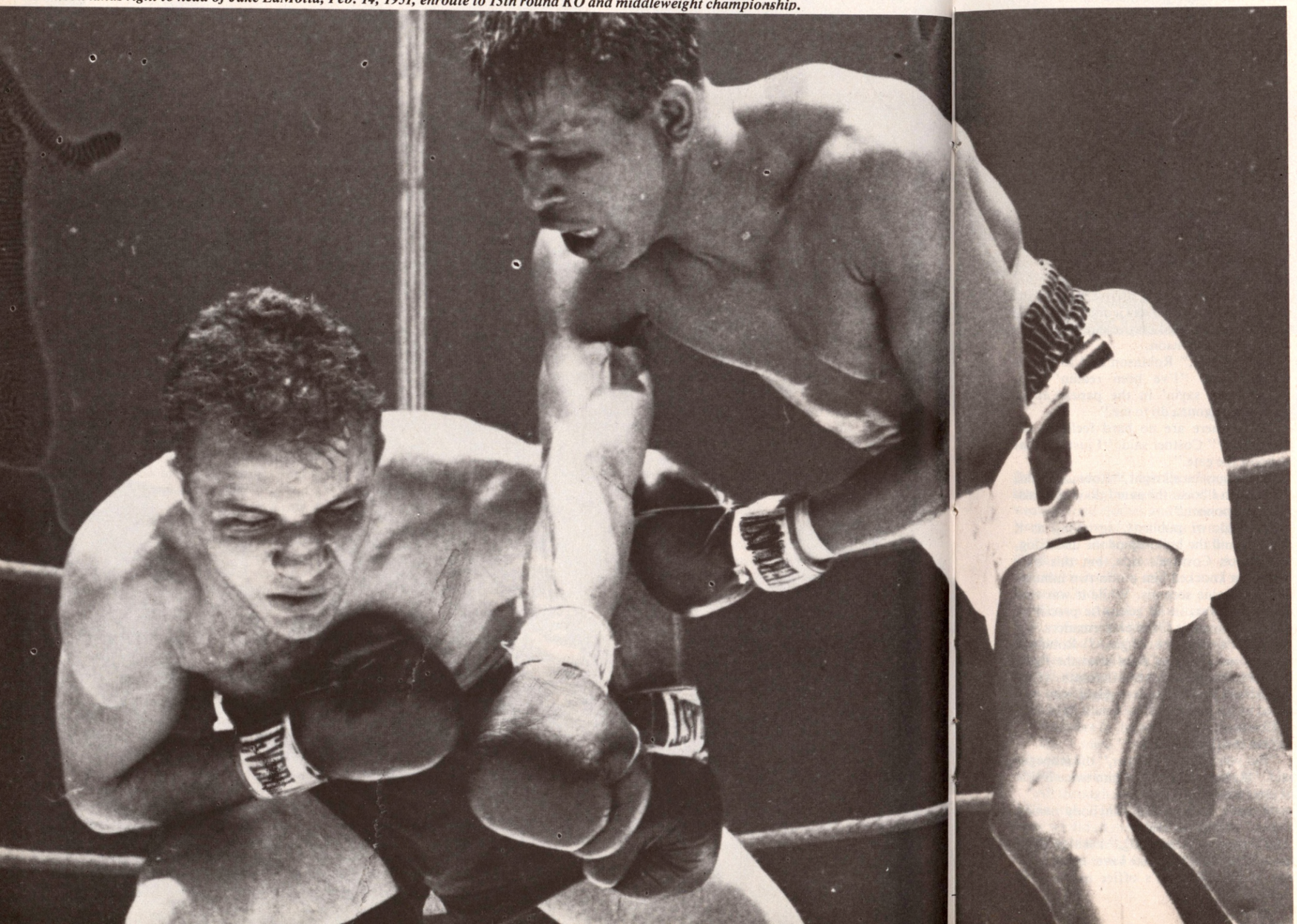
"The student protests?"

"That's right," he said. "We were talkin', and he said, 'Sugar, I believe you could help that,' I said, 'What do you mean?' He said, 'Youngsters look up to you, and I've got an idea.' I had met Mr. Fillmore, and of all the people I've met — all the Popes and all — I never met a man who believes in God and lives it more than Mr. Fillmore. You never hear the guy say a harsh word, even a loud word, and I want you to meet him."

"I'd like to," I said.

"I came back to New York," he said, "and I was goin' with my present wife. She lived upstairs out here and Mr. Fillmore lived downstairs. I talked with him, and we went to the Council of Churches and asked them to help us, and they gave us money. The county saw the potential and funded us. Now we hope to have the State Junior Olympics, and Jimmy Carter was out and I met with him, and he's a nice guy and likes what we're doing, and we hope for Federal funding. We work with the Board of Education and the Department of Parks and Recreation, and there has never been a paid member of the board of trustees. Every dollar goes in, and I'm about the poorest cat on the board."

Robinson lands right to head of Jake LaMotta, Feb. 14, 1951, enroute to 13th round KO and middleweight championship.



What happened to all that property you owned in Harlem?"

"I sold that even at a loss," he said, "just to get out. I fell in love with my wife out here, and Harlem was goin' downhill so bad, and now if you see a white face there, you know it's a cop."

"Did you get clipped?"

One day sitting in his office in Harlem, he had told me that he felt he was destined to make a great success in business. It was that afternoon in 1950, when he spoke of how he knew his ring skills were starting to decline.

"After a man attains all the things he likes," he had said then, "he has to find some other form of happiness. I feel I'm gonna find that in business. I'm not cocky within myself. I'm an extreme Christian within myself. I just believe. My faith is so strong that I know that someday I'm gonna be the head of some real big business. I thank God for the success I've had, and the investments I've made."

"Yeah, I got clipped," he said now. "It happened to Joe, too, but that's a part of life. I didn't get out with too much, but I didn't lose too much either."

"As you say," I said, "it happened to Joe, too, and it happens so often. They talk about the dirty fight game, but a fighter makes a fortune in it, and when he gets out into the nice clean world of American business they take it all from him."

He had reached into the desk drawer again. He brought out the Danish, and started on another one.

"There are so many of your fights I remember," I said. "The night you won the middleweight title from Jake LaMotta in Chicago . . ."

"Jake wasn't smart," he said, "but he was in condition. He was 'The Bull.' "

"I know," I said. "I remember that, after your first fight with him, you were passing blood for days."

"That's right," he said.

"When you fought him in Chicago for the title in '51," I said, "I watched it at a neighbor's house on TV. Ted Husing was announcing the fight, and in the early rounds he was filled with LaMotta. He kept saying that we were seeing an upset, that LaMotta was running the fight."

"He said that?"

"Yes, and I said to my neighbor, 'Husing doesn't know what he's talking about. Watch what Robinson does the next time the referee breaks them, or Robinson backs off from an exchange.' You would back off so far that sometimes you went out of the camera range, right off the screen. I said, 'LaMotta had trouble making the weight, and Robinson is walking the legs off him. When he gets ready to turn it on, Jake won't have much left.' In the thirteenth round you turned it on, and the referee had to stop it."

"That's right," he said nodding, "That's exactly what I did. You remember that?"

"Another fight I remember," I said, "was the one with "Flash" Sebastian, and that one scared me."

"That scared me, too," he said.

On June 24, 1947, Robinson knocked out Jimmy Doyle in the eighth round in Cleveland, and the next day Doyle died of brain injury. At the coroner's inquest, Robinson was asked, "Couldn't you tell from the look on Doyle's face that he had been hurt?" Robinson said, "Mister, that's what my business is, to hurt people." Because he was absolutely frank, he caught the criticism. He set up a $10,000 trust fund for Doyle's mother, and two months later he took little more than his expenses to fight Sebastian, the welterweight champion of the Philippines, on an American Legion show in Madison Square Garden.

"It was right after that Doyle fight," I said now.

"I know," he said. "The night before the Doyle fight I dreamed what was gonna happen, and I got up the next day and I called the commission and I told them. They said that they'd sold all the tickets, and they went so far as to get a Catholic priest to talk to me."

"In that Sebastian fight," I said, "you came out of your corner for the first round and he threw a wild hook, and you brought your right glove up and blocked it. He backed off, and came in again and did the same thing. This time you threw the right hand inside the hook and followed it with a hook of your own, and he went back on his head. Then he tried to get up, and he fell forward on his face, and the photographers at ringside were hollering, 'Get this! Get this! This guy may die, too!' "

"I know," he said. "I said, 'Oh, Lord, don't let it happen again.' "

"In the dressing room later," I said, "Sebastian was hysterical. Whitey Bimstein had seconded him, and he took a towel and soaked it in ice water and snapped it in Sebastian's face to bring him out of it. I said to Whitey, 'What kind of a fighter is this they brought all the way from the Philippines to almost be killed?' Whitey said, 'I never saw him before tonight, but they asked me to work with him. After I got him taped, I told him to warm up. He threw one punch and I stopped him. I said, "Look, fella. When you throw that hook, don't raise your head. You're fightin' Ray Robinson. You do that with him, and he'll take your head right off your shoulders." '

"Then sometime later I was talking with Ruby Goldstein. You remember Ruby was the referee that night, and Ruby said, 'That Sebastian threw that first hook, and Robinson brushed it away. I was just thinkin' to myself that if he did that again Robinson would cross a right. The next thing I knew he did, and I was saying, 'One . . . two . . . three.' "

"I was lucky that night," Robinson said now.

"And Sebastian was, too," I said, "and I'll tell you another night when you were lucky."

"When was that?" he said.

"When you got the title back from Randy Turpin."

In August of 1950 Robinson carried Charley Fusari over fifteen rounds of what was ostensibly a fight for Robinson's welterweight title but was, on Robinson's part, just one of the greatest boxing exhibitions I have ever seen. He gave his entire purse to the Damon Runyan Cancer Fund, of which Dan Parker, the sports editor and columnist of the *New York Daily Mirror*, was president. This act of charity had the effect, however unintended, of silencing Parker who, whenever the word got out that Robinson intended to go to Europe, would recall that he had missed that opportunity when he had failed to sail with the "Joe Louis Troupe."

The following May, Robinson left for Paris — Parker merely pointing out that it was "by boat" — and took along his fuschia Cadillac and George Gainford's black one. Included in the party of eleven were Robinson's golf pro, and his barber, and in Paris they acquired an Arabian midget who spoke five languages. They occupied most of one floor of the Claridge, and seldom left to eat in restaurants. There was an almost constant flow of room-service waiters through the suites, and the bill at the end was staggering.

"You know how the French are," Lew Burston, who had lived for many years in Paris and ran the foreign affairs of the Mike Jacobs boxing empire, said to me one day following Robinson's return. "In the old days they used to see maharajas arrive with their retinues, and they basically believe that another man's business is his own. At the end of Robinson's stay, though, even the French were somewhat stunned."

Robinson fought a half-dozen times in Europe, in Paris and elsewhere, and on July 10 in London he defended his middleweight title against Randy Turpin, the British and European champion. Turpin outpointed him over the fifteen rounds in an upset so startling that in the fight game on this side of the ocean they found it hard to believe.

"You may remember," I was saying to him now, "what Lew Burston said after the first Turpin fight. He said, 'Robinson had Paris in his legs.' "

"That was one of the few fights," he said, nodding, "where I took a chance. Remember what I told you — about temptation and will power? Then he had one of the most unorthodox styles, too. You remember the second fight?"

Two months after the London fight they met again in the Polo Grounds in New York. Robinson won the early rounds, but then Turpin, awkward, sometimes punching off the wrong foot, lunging with his jab, chopping with his right in close and eight years younger, began to come on. By the tenth round, Robinson seemed spent, and then a wide cut opened over his left eye and, obviously fearful that the fight might be stopped and with the blood gushing out of the cut, he took the big gamble. He walked in with both hands going. He shook Turpin with a right, pushed him off and dropped him in the middle of the ring with another right. When Turpin got up at nine, Robinson drove him to the ropes, and there he must have thrown forty punches. Turpin, reeling now and trying to cover, was half sitting on the middle rope, and there were 61,000 people there, and it sounded as if they were all screaming.

"Of course I remember the fight," I was saying now, "and, as I said, you were lucky that night. When you had him on the ropes and he didn't go down, you reached out with your left, put your glove behind his head and tried to pull him forward. There were only eight seconds left in the round, so if you had pulled him off the ropes and he had gone down, the count would have killed the rest of the round. You had that cut and you were exhausted, and you would never have survived the next five rounds."

"You're right," he said.

"And I'll tell you a night," I said, "when you did out-smart yourself."

"What night was that?" he said.

"That night in the Yankee Stadium when you fought Maxim and it was 104 degrees in there. You were not only licking him, but you were licking him so easily that you made a show of it, dancing around in and out, throwing unnecessary punches. That's why, in that heat you collapsed at the end of the thirteenth."

"You're right, old buddy," he said. "That was a mistake. I was incoherent all the next day. I never remembered when Goldstein fell out. I had a premonition the night before that fight too. I had a premonition I would die."

He had finished the pastry and reclosed the package again, and he returned it to the desk drawer.

"There's this Sugar Ray Leonard," I said, "who won a gold medal in the Olympics. There was another one — Sugar Ray Seales. How do you feel about these kids calling themselves Sugar Ray?"

"Bill, you know," he said, sitting back and smiling, "it's a good feeling to think that the kids think that much of me."

It was different when he was a fighter. There was another welterweight at that time named George Costner, and in Chicago in 1945 Robinson knocked him out in two minutes and fifty-five seconds of the first round. Five years later they were matched again, this time for Philadelphia, and in the days leading up to the fight, the other, by then known as George ("Sugar") Costner, was quoted on the sports pages as disparaging Robinson.

"Listen, boy," Robinson said to him at the weigh-in, "I've been readin' what you've been sayin' in the papers about what you're gonna do to me."

"Why, there are no hard feelings, are there, Ray?" Costner said. "I just did that to boost the gate."

"That may be all right," Robinson said, "But when I boost the gate I do it by praisin' my opponent."

The logic of publicity, revolving as it does around the build-up of the underdog, was all on Costner's side, but this time Robinson knocked him out in two minutes and forty-nine seconds. While it was succinct, this was, in its scientific precision, one of Robinson's finest performances.

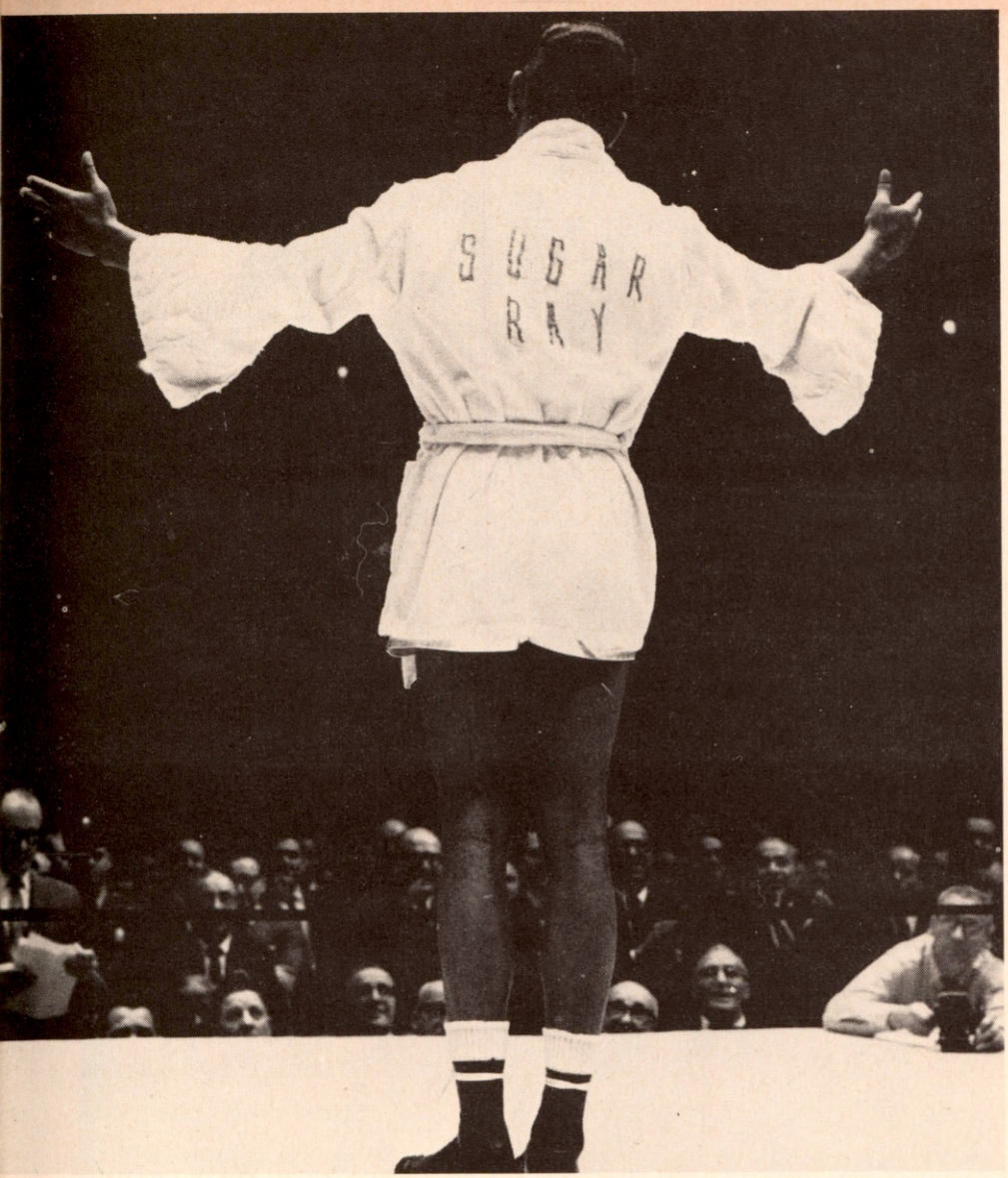
"There's only one 'Sugar,' " Robinson was quoted as saying right after the fight, but I remember another aftermath. It involved still another welterweight who was asked by his manager if he would fight Sugar Costner.

"No thanks," he said.

"But you can lick Costner," the manager said. "Robinson flattened him twice inside of one round."

"I don't want to fight anybody named Sugar," the fighter said.

"I've been remembering," I said to Robinson now, "the first time I ever met you. It was in Pete Vaccare's office in the Brill



Building, and we heard you singing out in the hall, and you and June Clark came in wearing road clothes and harmonizing 'The Very Thought of You.' You two did it well."

"Yeah," Robinson said, smiling. "June Clark, he was a musician — Armstrong was in his band — and he, too, was a believer in God."

"That was a long time ago," I said. "It was in March of 1946."

"Are you sure?" Robinson said. "Didn't we meet before then?"

"I'm certain," I said, "because I didn't start to write sports until I came back from the war."

"You were in the war?" Robinson said.

"Yes, I said, "but only as a war correspondent."

"Where were you?" Robinson said.

"All through northern Europe," I said.

"In the ETO?" he said. "Then how come we didn't meet over there?"

"I don't know," I said. It was as if I had just been stunned by a sucker punch, one you never expect the other to throw, and I was sparring for time.

"We were over there," Robinson was saying now. "Joe Louis and I we had a troupe, and we boxed in the ETO and everything."

I still didn't know what to say. There were the others at their desks — Thelma Smith and Mel Zolkover and a secretary — who could have heard us, and I didn't want to challenge it there. I am quite sure that, if we had been alone, I would have, just to try again after so many years to understand him, but as I have though about it since, I believe it was better that I let it ride. He is a man who has his own illusions about his life, as do we all, about the way he wishes it had been, and there is little if any harm, although some sadness, in that now. I shall send him a copy of this profile, however, and when he reads it I hope he understands that, as a reporter, my responsibility, as pompous as this may sound, is to draw as accurate and honest a portrait as I can. ■

RAY ROBINSON TITLE BOUTS

Height: 5'11" **Weight:** 145-160
Born: May 3, 1921

1946

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Dec. 20	Tommy Bell	New York	W 15
	Won World Welterweight Title		

1947

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
June 24	Jimmy Doyle	Cleveland	KO 8
Dec. 19	Chuck Taylor	Detroit	KO 6

1948

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
June 28	Bernard Docusen	Chicago	W 15

1949

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
July 11	Kid Gavilan	Philadelphia	W 15

1950

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Aug. 9	Charlie Fusari	Jersey City	W 15

1951

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Feb. 14	Jake LaMotta	Chicago	KO 13
	Won World Middleweight Title		
July 10	Randy Turpin	London	L 15
	Lost World Middleweight Title		
Sept. 12	Randy Turpin	New York	KO 10
	Regained World Middleweight Title		

1952

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Mar. 13	Carl (Bobo) Olson	San Francisco	W 15
Apr. 16	Rocky Graziano	Chicago	KO 3
June 25	Joey Maxim	New York	KO by 14
	For World Light Heavyweight Title		

1955

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Dec. 9	Carl (Bobo) Olson	Chicago	KO 2
	Regained World Light Heavyweight Title		

1956

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
May 18	Carl (Bobo) Olson	Los Angeles	KO 4

1957

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Jan. 2	Gene Fullmer	New York	L 15
	Lost World Middleweight Title		
May 1	Gene Fullmer	Chicago	KO 5
	Regained World Middleweight Title		
Sept. 23	Carmen Basilio	New York	L 15
	Lost World Middleweight Title		

1958

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Mar. 25	Carmen Basilio	Chicago	W 15
	Regained World Middleweight Title		

1960

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Jan. 22	Paul Pender	Boston	L 15
	Lost World Middleweight Title		
June 10	Paul Pender	Boston	L 15
	For World Middleweight Title		
Dec. 3	Gene Fullmer	Los Angeles	D 15
	For NBA Middleweight Title		

1961

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Mar. 4	Gene Fullmer	Las Vegas	L 15

Career Summary *No Contest

BOUTS	WINS	LOSSES	DRAWS	KO'S	N C*
201	174	19	6	109	2

THE GREATEST FIGHTER EVER POLL

RAY IN A RUNAWAY AS ALL-TIME PICK

PLACE	NAME	VOTES
1.	Sugar Ray Robinson (13)	221
2.	Joe Louis (6)	165
3.	Henry Armstrong (1)	150
4.	Muhammad Ali (1)	132
5.	Benny Leonard (1)	95
6.	Willie Pep	94
7.	Rocky Marciano	56
8.	Jack Dempsey	45
9.	Roberto Duran	41
10.	Jack Johnson (1)	40
11.	Carlos Monzon	38
12.	Joe Gans	35
13.	Stanley Ketchel (1)	32
14.	Mickey Walker	30
15.	Harry Greb (1)	29
16.	Sam Langford	28
17.	Sandy Saddler	21
18.	Archie Moore	16
19.	Gene Tunney	14
20.	Tony Canzoneri	12
21.	Marcel Cerdan	11
21.	Barney Ross	11
23.	Jimmy Wilde	10
23.	Bob Fitzsimmons	10
25.	Kid Gavilan	8
25.	Billy Conn	8

Others Receiving Votes: Jake LaMotta (6), Abe Attell (6), Ezzard Charles (5), Original Joe Walcott (4), Kid Chocolate (3), Emile Griffith (3), Jersey Joe Walcott (2), Sugar Ray Leonard (2), Jose Napoles (2), Jim Jeffries (1), Miguel Canto (1), Terry McGovern (1).

Note: Points were allocated on 10 for a first-place vote (shown in parenthesis after the name), nine for second, eight for third, down to one point for a tenth-place selection.

Those participating in "The All-Time Greatest" Poll: Peter Axthelm, *Newsweek*; Freddie Brown, Trainer; Gil Clancy, Manager-Matchmaker; Cus D'Amato, Manager; Don Dunphy, Announcer; Eddie Futch, Trainer; Harry Gibbs, Referee; Herbert G. Goldman, *The Ring* Magazine; Al Goldstein, Baltimore *Sun*; Randy Gordon, *The Ring* Magazine; Billy Graham, Ex-Boxer; Jerry Izenberg, Newark *Star-Ledger*; Jim Jacobs, Boxing Historian; Mike Katz, New York *Times*; Jerry Lisker, New York *Post*; Tommy Lopez, Las Vegas *Review-Journal*; Nat Loubet, *The Ring* Magazine; Barney Nagler, *The Racing Form*; Murray Olderman, NEA; Pat Putnam, *Sports Illustrated*; Harold Rosenthal, *Newsworld*; Art Rust Jr., Amsterdam *News*; Ed Schuyler, Associated Press; Bert Randolph Sugar, *The Ring* Magazine; Bob Waters, *Newsday*.

The term "Greatest pound-for-pound boxer" was invented for Sugar Ray Robinson. And when 25 experts from around the world were asked to pick their 10 all-time greatest fighters, irrespective of weight class, he solidified his claim to the title in a near runaway.

Selected by 13 of the 25 as their choice for the "All-time Greatest", Robinson was the only boxer named on all 25 ballots, never finishing below fifth. With 10 points accorded to a first-place vote, nine to a second, eight for a third, etc., Robinson finished 56 points ahead of Joe Louis, his nearest challenger for the "All-time" crown.

The self-proclaimed "Greatest", Muhammad Ali, finished in fourth place, behind Henry Armstrong, with the rest of the Top 10 reading like a Who's Who in Boxing: 5. Benny Leonard, 6. Willie Pep, 7. Rocky Marciano, 8. Jack Dempsey, 9. Roberto Duran and 10. Jack Johnson.

Acknowledging that any such poll is, at best, a bar-bet argument based on totally subjective standards, most of the "Experts" in the poll gave great consideration to greats of the past; particularly those whose fights they had witnessed either in person or through the medium of movies. And, although, as boxing historian Jim Jacobs put it, "I believe the book on a boxer should be closed before he can be considered," several also voted for still-active fighters, as witnessed by the selection of Roberto Duran as the ninth greatest fighter of all time.

With the exception of Duran — and a single ninth-place vote for Sugar Ray Leonard — still-active fighters were bypassed for many of those who fought in the '30s and '40s, with more than a few of the experts voting for real old-timers, like Benny Leonard, Joe Gans, Stanley Ketchel and Sam Langford.

But old-timers or current fighters, when all the ballots were counted up there was one indisputable fact: Sugar Ray Robinson was "The Greatest", Ali's claim notwithstanding.

THE RING PROUDLY ANNOUNCES THE 40th EDITION OF NAT FLEISCHER'S RING RECORD BOOK

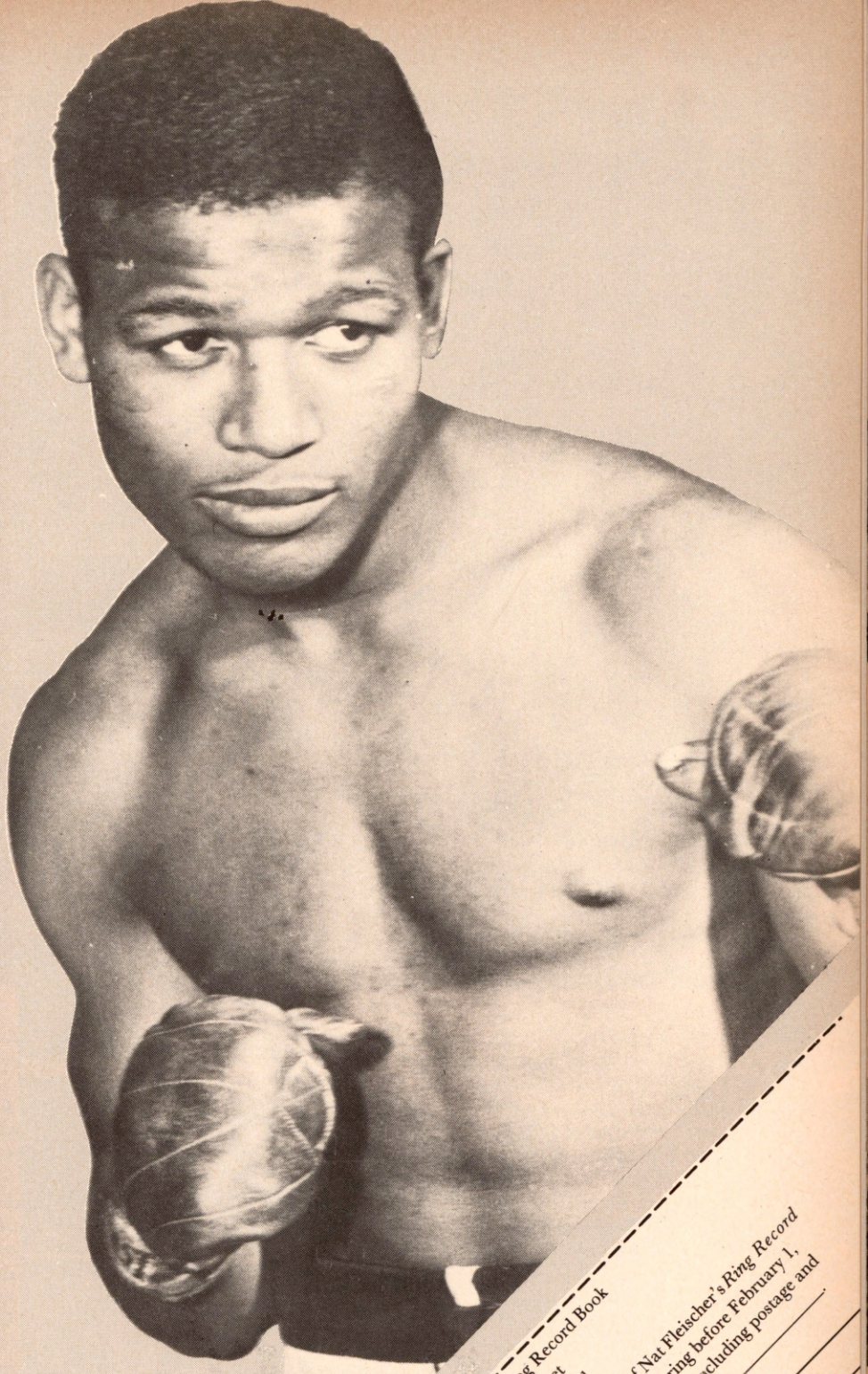
Due out in early spring, the 1980 *Ring Record Book and Boxing Encyclopedia* will be the most informative, most complete and most authoritative book on boxing ever published—including new records, new listings, an all-new index and new, up-to-date information.

The 1,000-plus page *Ring Record Book* will include a new section listing every fight ever in the Olympics, an alphabetical Roll Call of Champions from every division and many, many lists never seen before, all in ready-to-use, handy form.

With a whole new staff, the 40th edition will be in the best tradition of Nat Fleischer and what the New York *Times* called "Complete, thorough and accurate" and what boxing fans everywhere know as "The Bible of Boxing."

Now you as a boxing fan and reader of *The Ring* Magazine can have this invaluable source book at the special pre-publication price of only $18.95 (including postage and handling) by ordering before February 1, 1980. (The regular price, after February 1, 1980, will be $19.95*. Canadian and Foreign orders add $2.00 extra for postage and handling.)

But hurry, as this is a limited edition, and if past Record Books are any indication, this will be another sell-out!



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LEONARD-DURAN: THE INEVITABLE FIGHT

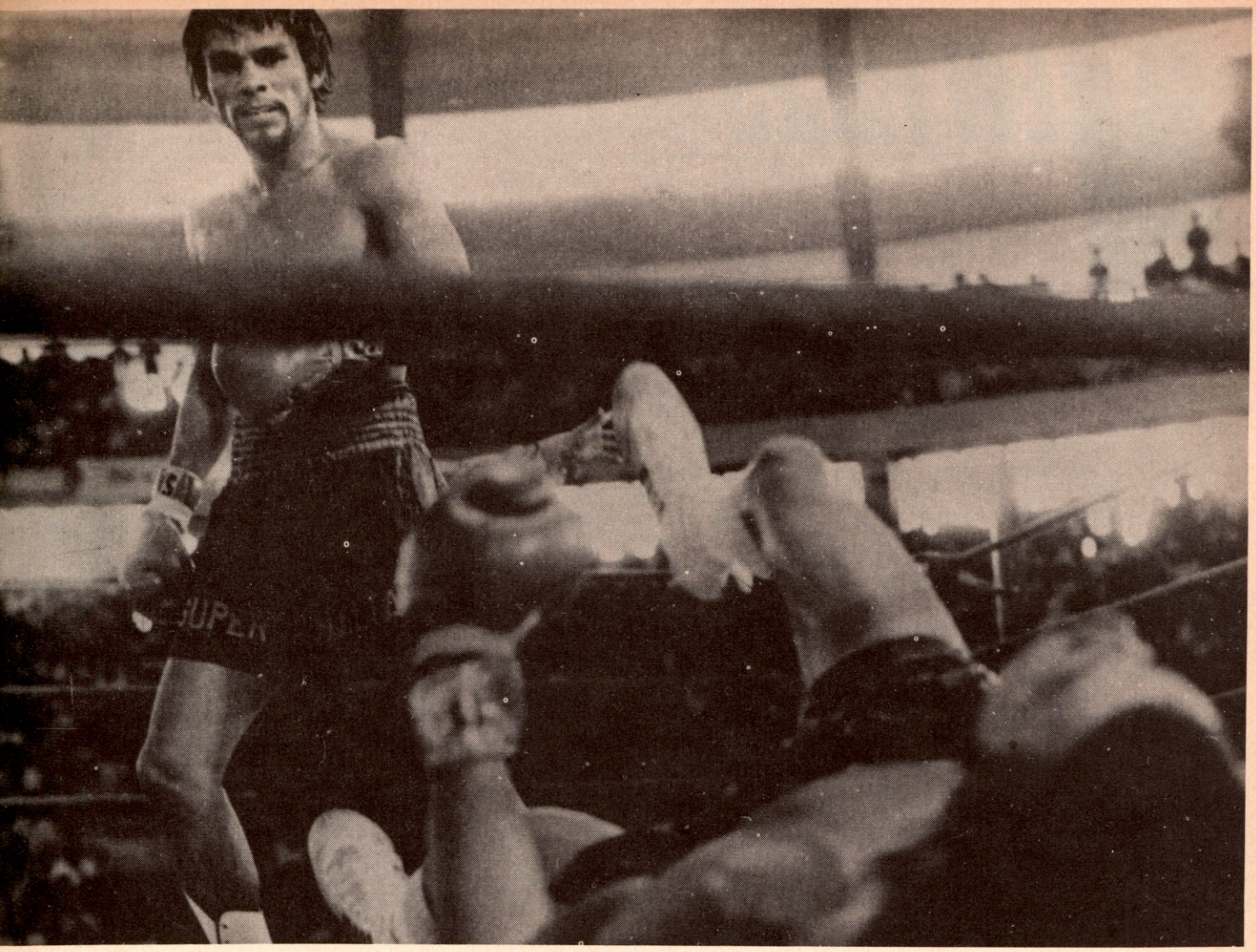
BOXING'S TWO SUPERSTARS ON A COLLISION COURSE

BY DAVE ANDERSON

It's as if they were two blips on a radar screen, two small planes swooping toward a mid-air crash that can't be avoided. Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran are on a collision course. Their welterweight showdown is not expected to occur for another 12 months, after each has attained a share of the title. But already the boxing public can't wait. It's similar to the inevitability of Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier first fighting for the world heavyweight title in 1971, only this time in miniature — Leonard, smooth and stylish and smiling, once an Olympic gold medal winner and now a corporation unto himself, going against Duran, the sneering street-fighter from Panama, punch-for-punch the world's most respected boxer even during Muhammad Ali's declining years.

"But to make a truly big match," Don King says, "they both must meet as title holders."

To promote it, King would get a crew cut. He also would have to get an armored truck. Asked about the eventual match here the other day, Leonard spoke of wanting $5 million as his end.



"That's a bad joke," King told him. "You scare people with talk like that."

The promoter mentioned $2.5 million for each gladiator as a "realistic" number. First, however, each must win a share of the welterweight title. Leonard won his half against Wilfred Benitez and is now the World Boxing Council champion. Duran has been stalking Jose (Pipino) Cuevas, the World Boxing Association champion who cannot escape him much longer. If each captures a share of the title, they will make more money fighting each other than anybody in boxing history outside of the heavyweight division.

The next question, of course, is who will win? But the answer will involve what transpires in the next 12 months — how much Leonard improves and how much Duran declines.

Duran will be 29 years old by then, perhaps a little past his peak, perhaps he is past it already. As the undisputed lightweight champion, he was a destroyer. In his 13 title bouts in the 135-pound division, he had 12 knockouts. But in the 147-pound division, he has not been able to bowl over his opponents. More significantly, he has not been able to flatten them. His triumph over Zeferino Gonzalez was his third consecutive 10-round decision.

Only once before, back in 1970 before he was the lightweight champion, did Duran have as many as two consecutive 10-round decisions.

Looking ahead 12 months. Angelo Dundee, who trained Ali and now manages Leonard, mentioned that "three things trouble Duran — speed, a left hand and a calculated fight. My guy's got the speed, the left hand and he can keep his head. Duran is thought of as a rough guy. But he's not rough. He's smart and slick. You need a well-regimented fighter to lick him and that's my guy."

His 23-year-old boxer is also 5-feet, 10-inches, compared to 5-7 for the Panamanian. Leonard will have a 7½-inch advantage and reach on Duran, according to the tales of the tape.

Another factor will be Duran's condition in 12 months. "His weight fluctuates so much," Dundee said, "who knows what he's going to be like next year? He gets as big as a house between fights." He was whispered to be 170 pounds not long ago.

Duran's big edge, of course, will be experience. His record now is 67-1, with 53 knockouts. His trainer, Ray Arcel, mentions that "Leonard is flashy and all that, but he still has to be able to stand up to Duran — not only Duran's ability, but also Duran's experience. Leonard has never been truly tested, but Duran will be the test. Experience will be a tremendous factor." In another 12 months, of course, Leonard will be much more experienced himself.

Already the psyching has begun between them. The other day, when Duran knew that Leonard was watching him work out, the Panamanian skipped rope in a squatting position.

Not that Leonard was intimidated. Asked about the eventual showdown, he replied, "Duran beat Carlos Palomino and he's beaten other guys, but I'm not Palomino and I'm not like other guys." Asked if he thought Duran would respect him, Leonard flashed a smile that is as dazzling as his punches.

"I'll make Duran respect me," he said. But more than respect, Leonard wants the reputation as punch for punch, the world's most respected boxer — the same reputation that Duran will want to keep. And that's what the fight will be all about.■

NEW FACES

JAIME GARZA

It is a long way from the wheat fields of Texas to a world boxing championship, but Jaime (pronounced Hi-May) Garza intends to make the journey.

To start with, he has two great traveling companions: Stablemates Danny "Little Red" Lopez, the world's featherweight titleholder, and Albert Davila, one of the world's premier bantamweights.

For another thing, Garza has an outstanding manager in Benny Georgino. Georgino, along with trainer John Montes Sr., is sure to bring out the best in Garza. And that is just the point: there is quite a lot of talent yet to be tapped from the 20-year-old Garza.

Born in Santa Cruz, California, Jaime is one of 12 children. Each of his six brothers is a fighter. With plenty of sparring partners in the family, Garza began boxing at the age of five in Pacoima, California. When he was 10, he moved with his family into Texas' Rio Grande Valley, where his family still resides.

In 1977, Garza won the Texas AAU flyweight title. That was about the time he was preparing himself to become a professional fighter.

"Jaime's father used to write me letters," said Georgino, "telling me what a great fighter his son could be, what a great young man he is, you know, really building him up. He was right. I was in New Orleans in 1978, and happened to see him in action. To say the least, I was impressed. Well, I told him if he wanted to turn pro, he'd have to come out to Los Angeles." Jaime — and an older brother — did exactly that. Soon, however, the brother became homesick and headed back to Texas. Jaime stayed.

There was little money coming in, but Garza did not have to worry. A doctor who enjoys boxing took a liking to Garza and allowed him to live in his house. Jaime stayed there until mid-1978, when he — like his brother — became homesick.

"Too much, too soon," said Georgino.

However, it was not long before a mentally refreshed Garza was back in California, this time to stay.

"The kid just idolizes Danny Lopez," Georgino said. "Lopez has been an inspiration to him. He watches Danny work out hard and he sees the results. He likes what he sees, so he trains hard also. I believe all his efforts will be rewarded with a world championship."

Garza is a swift puncher with brutal power in either fist. Three of his knockout victories have come in the first round and three more in the second.

"He can knock a man cold with a single shot," claimed Georgino, who added, "and he can do it with either his hook or his right. Nobody in the bantamweight division has this kid's potential. You should see him work (spar) with Lopez, Davila and Oscar Muniz. He picks up things so fast; then retains them. He also listens, which most young fighters don't. I'd say he has a bright future ahead of him."

From the fields of Texas to a world championship throne? It is not such an impossible dream, especially if one has the talent of Jaime Garza.

Height: 5'7" **Weight:** 118 pounds
Born: September 10, 1959
Amateur Record: 28-3, 15 knockouts

1978

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Feb.	Eduardo Villareal	Reynosa	KO 1
Mar.	Francisco Silva	Reynosa	KO 1
Nov. 30	Miguel Bejarano	Los Angeles	KO 1
Dec. 14	Augustin Sanches	Los Angeles	KO 2

1979

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Jan. 11	Delfino Cornejo	Los Angeles	KO 2
Jan. 18	Jose Villegas	Los Angeles	KO 4
Aug. 23	Jose Villegas	Los Angeles	W 6
Sept. 25	Ramon Barrera	Los Angeles	KO 3
Oct. 31	Fernando Reyes	San Diego	KO 2

Summary

BOUTS	WINS	LOSSES	DRAWS	KO'S
9	9	0	0	8

CURTIS PARKER

Curtis Parker stood in front of the press after powering his way to his 15th consecutive victory and held up both fists.

"These are gonna make me middleweight champion of the world," he said.

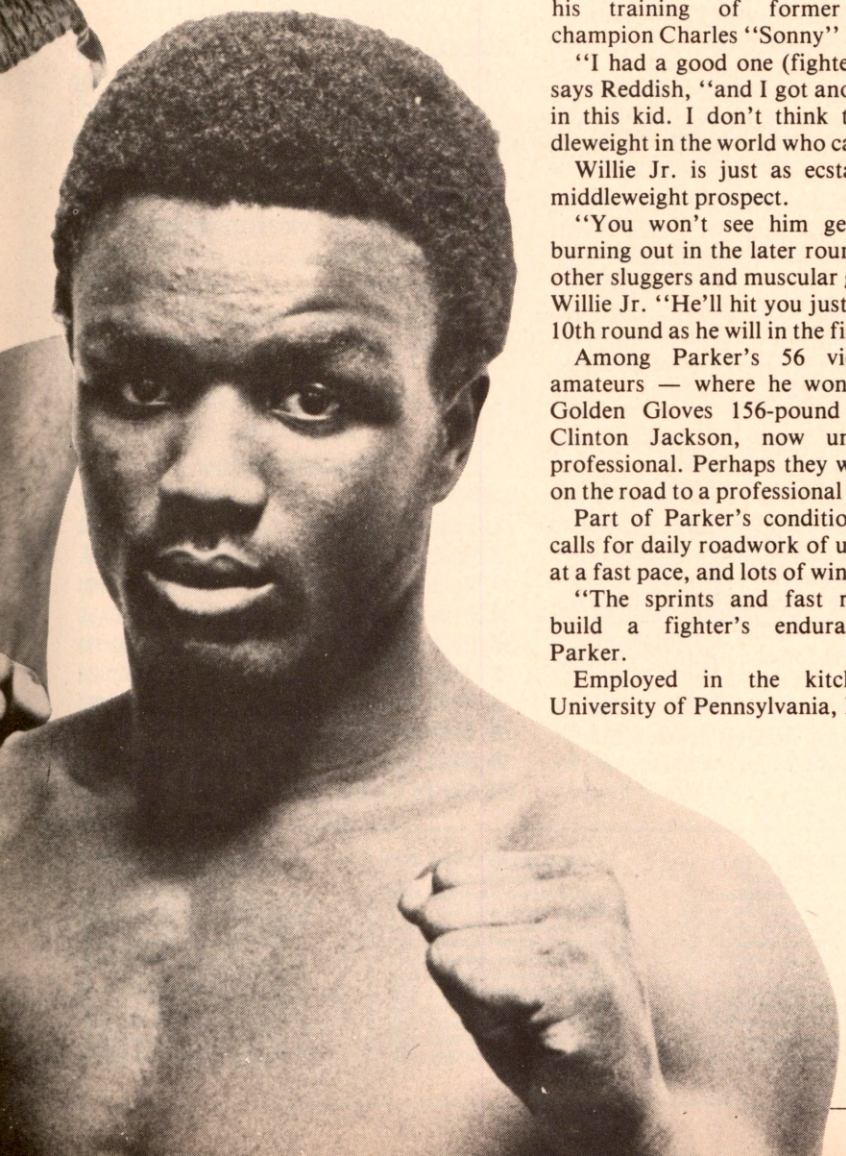
Nobody could argue.

Parker had just finished demolishing

talented Gary Guiden in the fifth round. It had been a breath-taking performance for the short-armed slugger from Frankford, Pennsylvania.

Guiden, 25, had come into the fight as a replacement for David Love, who was forced to withdraw because of an injured back. However, Guiden was more than an opponent; more than a last-minute replacement. His 28-4 record and victories over Sammy Nesmith, Nick Ortiz, Gary Broughton and Raul Aguirre represented a serious challenge to the unbeaten Parker. At least on paper. Parker, a middleweight version of Joe Frazier, merely came out smokin' and romped to victory number 15 with relative ease.

Asked if Parker is as hard a puncher as he looks to be, Guiden said, "You wouldn't want to be hit by him. He throws bombs — with either hand! I'd say he's blessed to have such power."



Born and raised in Philadelphia, Parker, at 5-8, usually finds himself matched against men three and four inches taller. It is a fact that does not bother him.

"You gotta' bang those big guys on the arms and body," says Parker. "Cut 'em down to size. Then, when they're down to size, you bowl 'em over!"

Awesome punching power is not all that makes Parker a fighter with a golden future. He also has deceiving hand speed for a man so powerfully built. He also bobs and weaves under punches the way few fighters do. He is managed and trained by the father-son team of Willie Reddish Sr. and Jr. Willie Sr. is best remembered for his training of former heavyweight champion Charles "Sonny" Liston.

"I had a good one (fighter) in Liston," says Reddish, "and I got another good one in this kid. I don't think there's a middleweight in the world who can beat him."

Willie Jr. is just as ecstatic about his middleweight prospect.

"You won't see him getting tired or burning out in the later rounds, like many other sluggers and muscular guys do," said Willie Jr. "He'll hit you just as hard in the 10th round as he will in the first."

Among Parker's 56 victims in the amateurs — where he won the National Golden Gloves 156-pound title — was Clinton Jackson, now unbeaten as a professional. Perhaps they will meet again on the road to a professional title.

Part of Parker's conditioning program calls for daily roadwork of up to two miles at a fast pace, and lots of wind sprints.

"The sprints and fast running really build a fighter's endurance," claims Parker.

Employed in the kitchens of the University of Pennsylvania, Parker sounds more like a professor than a laborer. In fact, he has a penchant for reading and a desire to earn a law degree one day. Talk to him about politics and he'll give you quite a lecture. Discuss the explosive Iranian situation with him and you'll think you are speaking to a presidential candidate, not a candidate for middleweight honors. Parker also enjoys writing poetry. One of his literary works is entitled "Search For Something Worthwhile." He began reciting that poem for the writer only minutes before going out to face Guiden. His doing so upset the elder Reddish.

"Come on, let the man rest," he complained. "He's got to relax."

Parker held up his hands.

"It's okay, Willie. This is as relaxing to me as anything."

Parker recited his poem. Part of it goes:

"Search for something worthwhile,
Search for something to be proud,
Search for what is the real you,
Search for something that is true."

Parker is searching for something worthwhile, something of which he can be proud — the middleweight championship of the world. With the pulverizing power he carries in both fists, he may not have to search for long.

Born: March 9, 1959 **Height:** 5'8"
Weight: 160 pounds
Amateur Record: 56-8

1977

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Dec. 6	Frank Williams	Philadelphia	KO 1

1978

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Jan. 24	Harry Fryer	Philadelphia	KO 3
Feb. 10	Kid Samson	Philadelphia	W 10
Mar. 21	Jody White	Philadelphia	KO 4
June 8	Sam Long	Detroit	KO 2
Aug. 24	Dan Snyder	Philadelphia	KO 3
Sept. 21	Jerome Goodman	Philadelphia	KO 8
Oct. 31	Larry Davis	Philadelphia	KO 1
Dec. 5	Ray Smith	Philadelphia	KO 5

1979

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Feb. 27	Charles Carey	Philadelphia	KO 1
Apr. 3	Arnell Thomas	Philadelphia	KO 3
May 14	Willie Warren	Philadelphia	KO 5
July 16	Willie Monroe	Philadelphia	W-10
Sept. 11	Elisha Obed	Philadelphia	KO 7
Nov. 14	Gary Guiden	Philadelphia	KO 5

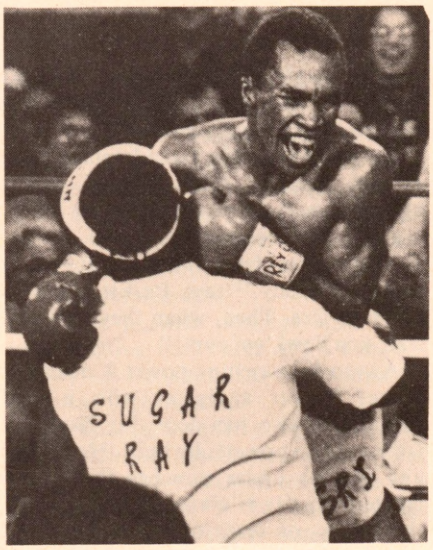
Summary

BOUTS	WINS	LOSSES	DRAWS	KO'S
15	15	0	0	13

THE RING'S WORLD RATINGS

(AS OF DECEMBER 11, 1979)

*WBA champion **WBC champion



Ray Leonard Fighter of the Month

Sugar Ray Leonard is once again deserving of the honor of being called *Ring's* "Fighter of the Month." Last time it was for his first-round blitz of Andy Price. Now it is for his title-winning effort against previously unbeaten Wilfred Benitez.

In what Leonard called "the toughest fight of my career," the former Olympic gold medalist stopped Benitez with just six seconds remaining in the 15th and last round to capture the title. It was the unbeaten Leonard's ninth fight of 1979, and 26th overall. He has stopped 17 opponents.

Recognition also goes to middleweight king Vito Antuofermo, who did not crumble against Marvin Hagler — as many experts had predicted — and to Marvin Johnson, who became the second man in history to regain the light heavyweight title when he stopped WBA champion Victor Galindez in the 11th round.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Mike Weaver, an easy 12-round victor over Scott LeDoux, moves to fourth.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Because of his two knockout victories against Marvin Johnson, Matthew Saad Muhammad gains recognition by *The Ring* as the legitimate light heavyweight champion. James Scott moves from five to two off his impressive 10-round decision victory against Yaqui Lopez.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Unbeaten Curtis Parker moves to fifth. Enter Algeria's outstanding Loucif Hamani and England's Kevin Finnegan. Exit David Love and Marcos Geraldo.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Rocky Mosley, Jr., and Ruben Pardo drop after losses. Enter Nick Ortiz, who knocked out Mosley.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Ray Leonard sits atop the division after beating Benitez. Uganda's Joseph Nsubuga replaces Manuel Jiminez.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Dan De Guzman drops after two quick losses, making room for Argentina's Hugo Luero.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Inactive Jorge Morales drops to 10th.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No changes.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Cecilio Lastra drops to 10th, inactive.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Former Olympic champion Leo Randolph enters after an easy victory over Oscar Muniz. Also entering, on a knockout of Alfonso Zamora, is Eddie Logan. Philadelphia's unbeaten Jeff Chandler moves in at 10. Andres Hernandez, Julian Solis, and Juan Alvarez all exit.

FLYWEIGHTS: Enter new WBA titleholder Luis Ibarra, who decisioned Betulio Gonzalez. Exit Miguel Canto, who retired.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
(over 175 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION
TITLE VACANT

1 **Larry Holmes**** . . . . . Easton, Pa.
2 **John Tate*** . . . . . Knoxville, Tenn.
3 **Gerrie Coetzee** . . . . . South Africa
4 **Mike Weaver.** . . . . . Los Angeles, Cal.
5 **Earnie Shavers** . . . . . Warren, Ohio
6 **Leroy Jones** . . . . . Denver, Colo.
7 **Lorenzo Zanon** . . . . . Italy
8 **Alfredo Evangelista** . . . . . Spain
9 **Scott LeDoux** . . . . . Minneapolis, Minn.
10 **Gerry Cooney** . . . . . Huntington, N.Y.

WELTERWEIGHTS
(not over 147 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION
RAY LEONARD** . . . . . Palmer Park, Md.

1 **Wilfred Benitez** . . . . . Puerto Rico
2 **Jose (Pipino) Cuevas*** . . . . . Mexico
3 **Roberto Duran** . . . . . Panama
4 **Thomas Hearns** . . . . . Detroit, Mich.
5 **Jorgen Hansen** . . . . . Denmark
6 **Pete Ranzany** . . . . . Sacramento, Cal.
7 **Angel Espada** . . . . . Puerto Rico
8 **David Green.** . . . . . England
9 **Joseph Nsubuga** . . . . . Uganda
10 **Randy Shields** . . . . . N. Hollywood, Cal.

FEATHERWEIGHTS
(not over 126 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION
DANNY LOPEZ** . . . . . Los Angeles Cal.

1 **Eusebio Pedroza*** . . . . . Panama
2 **Reuben Castillo** . . . . . Bakersfield, Cal.
3 **Roberto Castanon** . . . . . Spain
4 **Mike Ayala.** . . . . . San Antonio, Texas
5 **Eddie Ndukwu** . . . . . Nigeria
6 **Juan Malvarez.** . . . . . Argentina
7 **Hector Carrasquilla** . . . . . Panama
8 **Salvador Sanchez** . . . . . Mexico
9 **Nene Jun.** . . . . . Philippines
10 **Cecilio Lastra** . . . . . Spain

THE RING RATINGS 25 YEARS AGO

From the February, 1955 issue of *The Ring*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champion
Rocky Marciano, Brockton, Mass.
1. Nino Valdes, Havana, Cuba
2. Don Cockell, England
3. Ezzard Charles, Cincinnati
4. Bob Baker, Pittsburgh, Pa.
5. Earl Walls, Canada
6. Heinz Neuhaus, Germany
7. Jimmy Slade, New York, N.Y
8. Tommy Jackson, Far Rockaway
9. Rex Layne, Lewiston, Utah
10. Charley Norkus, Jersey City

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champion
Archie Moore, San Diego, Calif.
1. Billy Smith, Atlantic City
2. Joey Maxim, Cleveland, Ohio
3. Harold Johnson, Philadelphia
4. Floyd Patterson, Brooklyn
5. Paul Andrews, Buffalo, N.Y.
6. Marty Marshall, Detroit
7. Gerhard Hecht, Germany
8. Yolande Pompey, Trinidad
9. Bob Satterfield, Chicago
10. Willie Hoepner, Germany

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champion
Carl (Bobo) Olson, Honolulu
1. Joey Giardello, Philadelphia
2. Rocky Castellani, Cleveland
3. Holly Mims, Washington, D.C.
4. Charley Humez, Paris, France
5. Pierre Langlois, France
6. Willie Troy, Washington, D.C.
7. Tiberio Mitri, Italy
8. Bobby Jones, Oakland, Calif.
9. Eduardo (K.O.) Lausse, Arg.
10. Georgie Johnson, Trenton, N.J.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

(not over 175 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION Matthew Muhammad (Matthew Franklin)** . . . Philadelphia, Pa.

1. **Marvin Johnson*** . . . . Indianapolis, Ind.
2. **James Scott** . . . . . Rahway, N.J.
3. **John Conteh** . . . . . England
4. **Victor Galindez** . . . . . Argentina
5. **Alvaro (Yaqui) Lopez** . . . . Stockton, Cal.
6. **Eddie Gregory** . . . . . Brooklyn, N.Y.
7. **Lotte Mwale** . . . . . Zambia
8. **Mustapha Wassaja** . . . . . Denmark
9. **Mike Rossman** . . . . . Turnersville, N.J.
10. **Rudi Koopmans** . . . . . Holland

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

(not over 160 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION

VITO ANTUOFERMO . . . . . Italy

1. **Marvin Hagler** . . . . . Brockton, Mass.
2. **Hugo Corro** . . . . . Argentina
3. **Alan Minter** . . . . . England
4. **Ronnie Harris** . . . . . Akron, Ohio
5. **Curtis Parker** . . . . . Philadelphia, Pa.
6. **Loucif Hamani** . . . . . Algeria
7. **Mustafa Hamsho** . . . . . Syria
8. **Mike Colbert** . . . . . Portland, Ore.
9. **Kevin Flnnegan** . . . . . England
10. **Tony Sibson** . . . . . England

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

(not over 154 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION

AYUB KALULE* . . . . . Uganda

1. **Maurice Hope**** . . . . . England
2. **Masashi Kudo** . . . . . Japan
3. **Rocky Mattioli** . . . . . Australia
4. **Tony Chiaverini** . . . . . Kansas City, Mo.
5. **Kenny Bristol** . . . . . Guyana
6. **Nick Ortiz** . . . . . Puerto Rico
7. **Rocky Mosley, Jr.** . . . . . Las Vegas, Nev.
8. **Sandy Torres** . . . . . Puerto Rico
9. **Marijan Benes** . . . . . Yugoslavia
10. **Andoni Amana** . . . . . Spain

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

(not over 140 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION

ANTONIO CERVANTES* . . . . . Colombia

1. **Joe Kimpuani** . . . . . Zaire
2. **Sang-Hyun Kim**** . . . . . Korea
3. **Saoul Mamby** . . . . . New York, N.Y.
4. **Miguel Montilla** . . . . . Dominican Rep.
5. **Esteban DeJesus** . . . . . Puerto Rico
6. **Lennox Blackmoore** . . . . . Guyana
7. **Teo Ozuna** . . . . . Dominican Republic
8. **Bruce Curry** . . . . . Los Angeles, Cal.
9. **Juan Jose Gimenez** . . . . . Spain
10. **Hugo Luero** . . . . . Argentina

LIGHTWEIGHTS

(not over 135 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION

TITLE VACANT

1. **Ernesto Espana*** . . . . . Venezuela
2. **Jim Watt**** . . . . . Scotland
3. **Claude Noel** . . . . . Trinidad, W.I.
4. **Julio (Diablito) Valdez** . . Dominican Rep.
5. **Johnny Lira** . . . . . Chicago, Ill.
6. **Howard Davis** . . . . . Glen Cove, N.Y.
7. **Vilomar Fernandez** . . . . Dominican Rep.
8. **Aaron Pryor** . . . . . Cincinnati, Ohio
9. **Hilmer Kenty** . . . . . Detroit, Mich.
10. **Jorge Morales** . . . . . Puerto Rico

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

(not over 130 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION

SAMUEL SERRANO* . . . . . Puerto Rico

1. **Alexis Arguello**** . . . . . Nicaragua
2. **Frankie Baltazar** . . . . Los Angeles, Cal.
3. **Bobby Chacon** . . . . . Los Angeles, Cal.
4. **Rafael (Bazooka) Limon** . . . . . Mexico
5. **Rodolfo Sanchez** . . . . . Spain
6. **Victor Echegaray** . . . . . Argentina
7. **Roberto Elizondo** . . . Corpus Christi, Tex.
8. **Greg Coverson** . . . . . Columbus, Ohio
9. **Carlos Hernandez** . . . . . Spain
10. **Nkosana Mgxaji** . . . . . South Africa

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

(not over 122 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION

WILFREDO GOMEZ** . . . . . Puerto Rico

1. **Ricardo Cardona*** . . . . . Colombia
2. **Juan (Kid) Meza** . . . . Los Angeles, Cal.
3. **Nicky Perez** . . . . . Tucson, Ariz.
4. **Jose Caba** . . . . . Dominican Rep.
5. **Soo-Hyun Chung** . . . . . Korea
6. **Sergio Palma** . . . . . Argentina
7. **Javier Flores** . . . . . Salt Lake City, Utah
8. **Leo Cruz** . . . . . Dominican Rep.
9. **Shuchi Isogami** . . . . . Japan
10. **Hiroyuki Iwamote** . . . . . Japan

BANTAMWEIGHTS

(not over 118 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION

JORGE LUJAN* . . . . . Panama

1. **Lupe Pintor**** . . . . . Mexico
2. **Carlos Zarate** . . . . . Mexico
3. **Alberto Davila** . . . . . Los Angeles, Cal.
4. **Roberto Rubaldino** . . . . . Mexico
5. **Leo Randolph** . . . . . Tacoma,Wash
6. **Oscar Muniz** . . . . . Los Angeles, Cal.
7. **Eddie Logan** . . . . . Los Angeles, Cal.
8. **Juan F. Rodriguez** . . . . . Spain
9. **Ricardo Bennett** . . . . . Panama
10. **Jeff Chandler** . . . . . Philadelphia, Pa.

FLYWEIGHTS

(not over 112 pounds)

WORLD CHAMPION

CHAN-HEE PARK** . . . . . Korea

1. **Yoko Gushiken** . . . . . Japan
2. **Luis Ibarra*** . . . . . Panama
3. **Betulio Gonzalez** . . . . . Venezuela
4. **Sung-Jun Kim** . . . . . Korea
5. **Guty Espadas** . . . . . Mexico
6. **Charlie Magri** . . . . . England
7. **Joey Olivo** . . . . . Los Angeles
8. **Shoji Oguma** . . . . . Japan
9. **Netrnoi Vorasingh** . . . . . Thailand
10. **Rey Melendez** . . . . Dominican Republic

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champion
Johnny Saxton, Brooklyn, N.Y.

1. Carmen Basilio, Syracuse, N.Y.
2. Kid Gavilan, Havana, Cuba
3. Ramon Fuentes, Los Angeles
4. Freddy Dawson, Chicago, Ill
5. Vince Martinez, Paterson, N.J.
6. Tony DeMarco, Boston, Mass.
7. Del Flanagan, St. Paul, Minn.
8. Maurice Harper, Oakland, Calif.
9. Hector Constance, Trinidad
10. Somdej Yongtrakit, Thailand

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champion
Jimmy Carter, New York, N.Y.

1. Paddy DeMarco, Brooklyn, N.Y.
2. Duilio Loi, Italy
3. Ralph Dupas, New Orleans, La.
4. Frankie Ryff, New York, N.Y.
5. Eddie Chavez, San Jose, Calif.
6. Wallace (Bud) Smith, Cincinnati
7. Arthur Persley, Red Crosse, La.
8. Cisco Andrade, Compton, Calif.
9. Orlando Zulueta, Havana, Cuba
10. Johnny Gonsalves, Oakland, Calif.

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champion
Sandy Saddler, New York, N.Y.

1. Teddy Davis, Hartford, Conn.
2. Percy Bassett, Philadelphia
3. Ray Famechon, France
4. Rudy Garcia, Los Angeles
5. Ciro Morasen, Cuba
6. Jean Sneyers, Belgium
7. Hogan (Kid) Bassey, Nigeria
8. Billy Kelly, Ireland
9. Carmelo Costa, Brooklyn, N.Y.
10. Orlando Echevarria, Cuba

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champion
Robert Cohen, France

1. Raton Macias, Mexico City
2. Chamrern Songkitrat, Thailand
3. Mario D'Agata, Italy
4. Pierre Cossemyns, Belgium
5. Peter Keenan, Scotland
6. Willie Toweel, South Africa
7. Andre Valignat, France
8. Bobby Sinn, Australia
9. Nate Brooks, Cleveland, Ohio
10. Billy Peacock, Los Angeles

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champion
Pascual Perez, Argentina

1. Yoshio Shirai, Tokyo, Japan
2. Leo Espinosa, Manila, P.I.
3. Dai Dower, Wales
4. Nazzareno Gianelli, Italy
5. Danny Kid, Manila, P.I.
6. Tanny Campo, Manila, P.I.
7. Eric Marsden, England
8. Jake Tuli, South Africa
9. Antonio Diaz II, Spain
10. Young Martin, Spain

RINGSIDE REPORTS

LEONARD-BENITEZ
World Welterweight Title

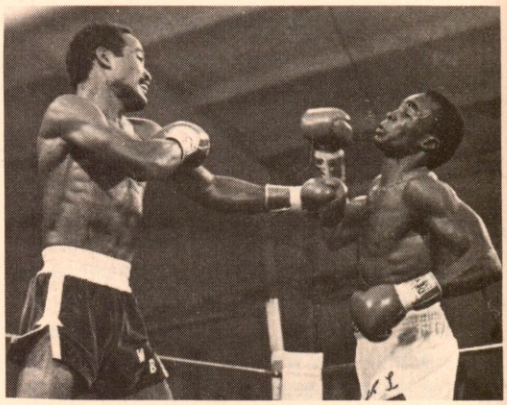
LAS VEGAS, NEV. — If ever a fight served as a finishing school for boxing, it was the Sugar Ray Leonard-Wilfred Benitez masterpiece. Their 15-round fight last November 30th was more than a classic fight. It was an instructional lesson in "How to Box."

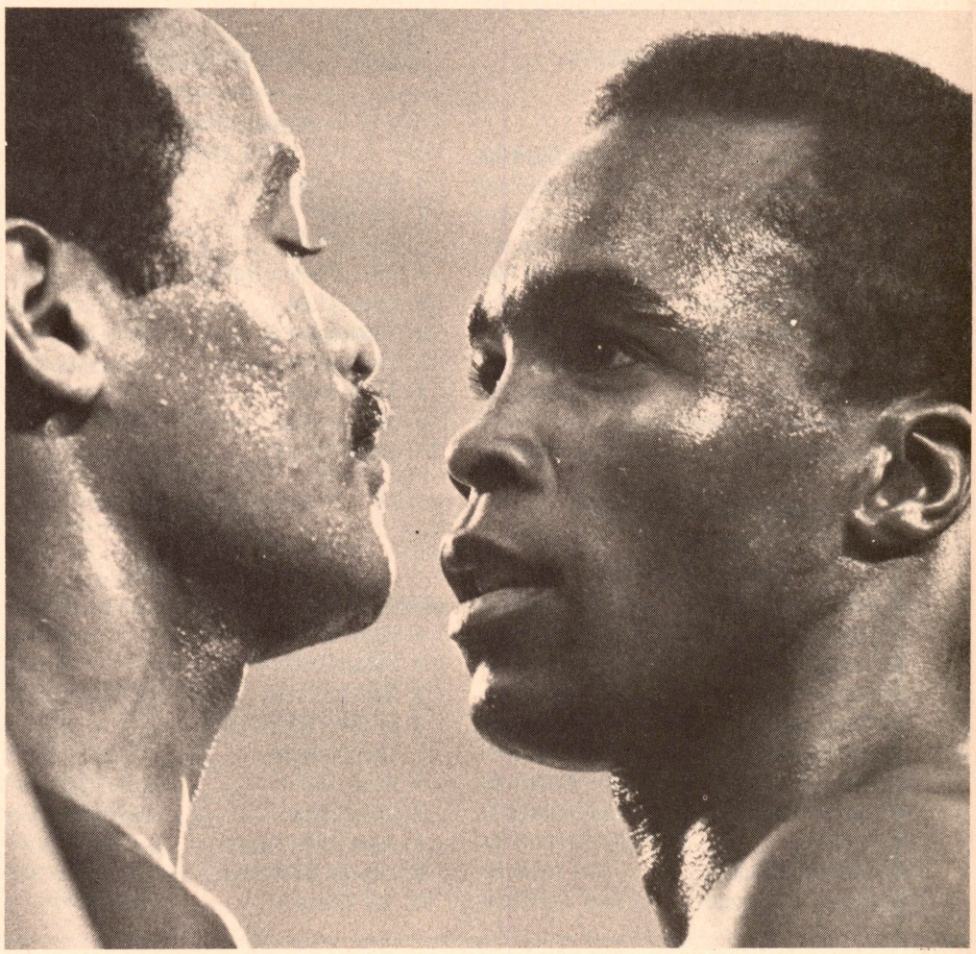
Forget that Leonard won the fight with six seconds to go in the 15th round. The previous 2774 seconds had more pure artistry, magnificent moves and unadulterated action than any fight in recent memory. And it was hardly a one-sided fight, as the bettors who made Leonard a 3-1 favorite or some of Sugar Ray's devotees would have you believe.

From the moment these two Adonises walked into the ring, part poseurs and part prima donnas, you knew it was going to be less a war than a battle between two masters, each attempting to leave their own indelible stamp of greatness on the outcome of the fight and on the consciousness of the observers. Benitez drank in his adulation from the crowd, bowing to each of the four corners while Leonard held his arms aloft in his familiar victory pose. Both were, in the words of Leonard, "Not just being cocky, but being confident."

And they fought with the same confidence, Leonard, at 146, continually pumping in his left jab while remaining wary of Benitez' right — called "sneaky" by Carlos Palomino — and Benitez, at 144½, looking for an opening. For two rounds Leonard peppered Benitez with a schoolbook jab, bringing tears to the eyes of Wilfred, who began to take on the look of a little boy who had lost his mittens. Then, as his mentor, Angelo Dundee, continued to scream "Use the left Ray . . . the left . . .", Leonard caught Benitez with a cross between a left jab and a left hook towards the end of the third round, knocking the off-balance champion down. Benitez arose, more embarrassed than hurt, smiling to himself as much as to the crowd.

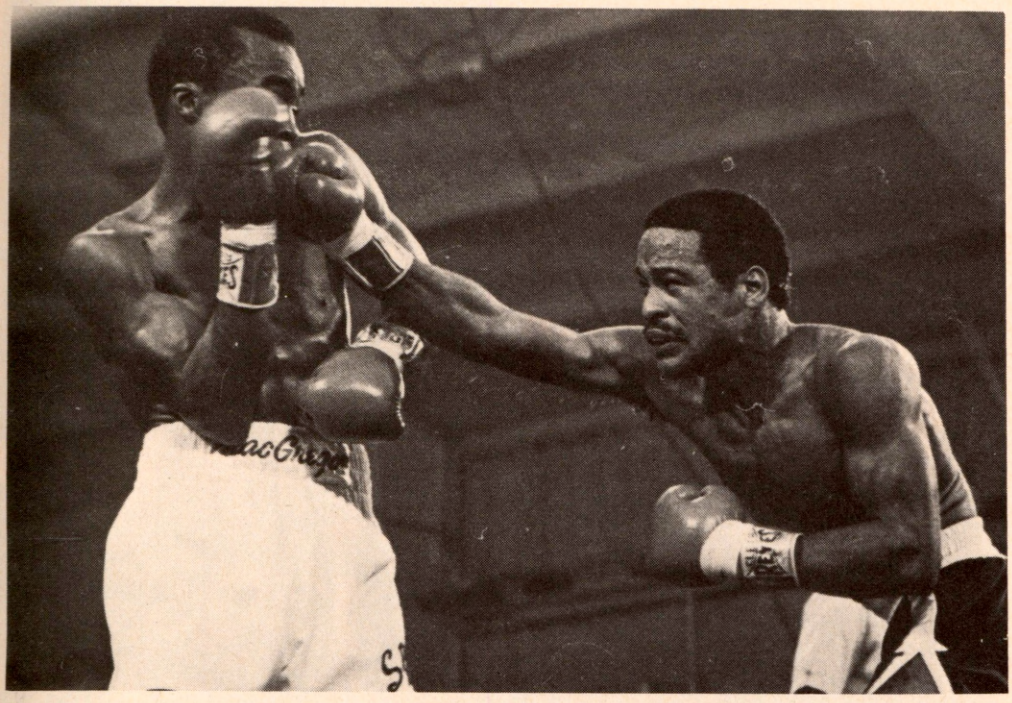
But if Sugar Ray was going to school, constantly learning, so was Benitez. Starting with the fourth round — punctuated by a collision of foreheads that looked like a runaway train wreck leaving Leonard dazed and Benitez bloodied — Wilfred began to lose his eight months of ring dust. He began landing with right leads to Sugar's head. Benitez' deceptive right was working. Despite the fact Benitez had stopped 23 of his previous 38 opponents, he had the reputation of not having enough power "to break an egg" (again, credit Palomino). After the fight, however, Leonard admitted "he caught me with some dynamite shots," and "rocked me in the seventh round."

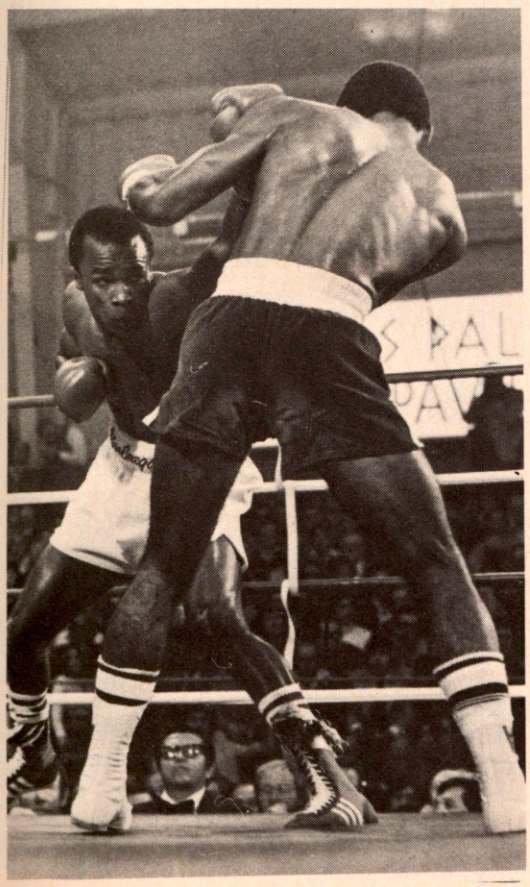


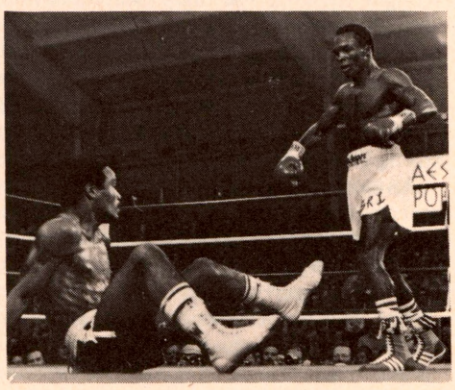


PHOTOS BY HERB HERPOLSHEIMER

And so the rounds went. Leonard used his left to perfection, but continually missed with overhand rights to Benitez' head. The champion threw far fewer punches, but made Leonard miss while countering all the while with his own right. Every now and then, Leonard went into







one of his patented flurries, while Dundee kept screaming "The left . . . the left . . ." Benitez either blocked or slipped most of Leonard's punches, then moved inside to counter.

By the end of the 14th round, Leonard's aggressiveness — and left — had carried him into the lead. It was not a wide lead, but enough to take away Benitez' championship.

But the 15th round was something else. It was life-or-death, something that has become tradition at Caesars Palace.

Leonard came out of his corner with Dundee's final call to battle "Let it all hang out" still ringing in his ears. He raced across the ring to pin Benitez on the ropes. As he punched to the body and the head alternately, Benitez kept throwing his right over the top of Sugar's left. Flurry followed flurry as the two combatants put on a finish to end all finishes. And then it happened: With less than 15 seconds to go in the round — and the fight — Leonard caught Benitez with another left jab-cum-hook and the champion was down. Benitez was up, once again smiling, this time more in hurt than in embarrassment, and Leonard was on him again. With six seconds to go in the fight, referee Carlos Padilla stopped it, unaware of the time left, but obviously aware of what had happened in the last round of a fight in New York just the previous week when the referee failed to stop a fight in time and a fighter was hurt — fatally.

Benitez seemed not to mind. The only one who did was a bettor who had wagered $150,000 that the fight would "go" the distance.

But if one bettor was unhappy with the outcome of the fight, he was the only one who was. The 4,000-plus crammed into the Pavilion at Caesars Palace and the 50 million-plus watching it in their living rooms across the country had seen two of the best in one of the classics of all time. Leonard, who catapulted to the top of the ring ropes to proclaim his unbounded joy at winning the championship, was delirious, having attained his goal of becoming champion of the world. He had "gone through it" with what he called his "best performance."

Benitez, ever the gentleman, acknowledged the winner and admitted, in a gracious manner, "Now I know I have another boxer like me, a good champ." Not a good champ, a great one. But then again, so were you, so were you . . .

—Bert Randolph Sugar

ANTUOFERMO-HAGLER
World Middleweight Title

LAS VEGAS, NEV. — Marvelous Marvin Hagler seems able to out-slug, out-punch, and out-maneuver every opponent except his own bad luck.

His constant rendezvous with misfortune was never so evident as it was on the November night when he battled world middleweight champion Vito Antuofermo at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas; and lost his bid for the title by a heart-breaking draw decision.

Hagler, who was the number one middleweight contender for two long years, had waited, none too patiently, for his rightful shot at the world title.

Said an embittered Hagler before the bout: "The powers of boxing kept going around me; and fluffing me off every which way. I know why. It's politics. It's also what Joe Frazier told me once: 'You're black, you're a southpaw, and you're tough. That's why nobody wants to fight you!"

But Marvelous Marvin felt that his years of frustration would only add to his fury in the championship ring; and help take him to the world title he covets. (Hagler insists on the term "Marvelous Marvin," which is his legal name; and the name that appears on his fighter's license).

But the Marvelous one was foiled again, as Vito Antuofermo held on by his toenails and a draw decision to his title.

It was the first time in 16 years that a title bout had ended in a draw. Ironically, the last time was also a middleweight title bout — between WBA champion Dick Tiger and challenger Gene Fullmer, on Feb. 23, 1963 in Las Vegas.

Hagler and Antuofermo, both weighing 158½ pounds, fought a pier-six brawl for the full 15 rounds. There was as much clinching and mauling as there was punching and countering; but the constant, intense action made the bout a fight fan's dream.

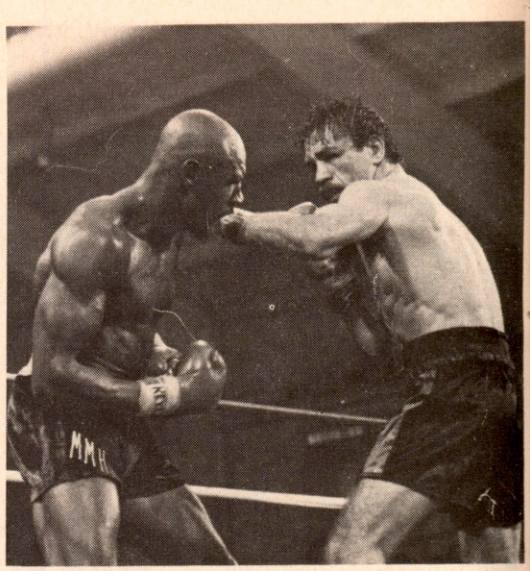
Hagler, famous for his southpaw style, employed surprising switchhit strategy; changing several times from southpaw to a righthanded stance. This, he stated, was a battle plan to confuse the champion. Antuofermo admitted, after the bout, that the plan had worked.

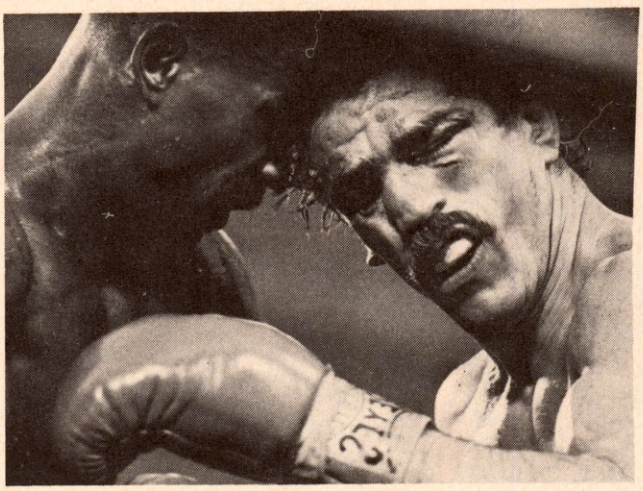
Hagler also spent much of the bout backing away — in order to elude the savage attacks and inside punching of Antuofermo. It was the backaway strategy that, in the eyes of two judges, cost him the fight and the middleweight title.

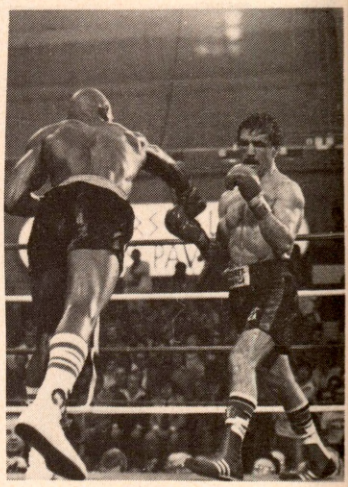
Antuofermo, determined to keep the title to himself, moved in swiftly at the opening bell, and was instantly met by a series of right-left-rights from Hagler. The champion countered by clinching Hagler's head and shoving him backwards toward the ropes.

Antuofermo started the second round with a strong left hook, countered by a left jab of Hagler's. Then the pushing began — first by the champion — then by the challenger. Antuofermo pushed Hagler to the ropes, where he dealt him a clean shot to the jaw. He missed with a second jab to the head, but backed Hagler up toward the end of the round.

The third round saw Hagler constantly backing up to avoid the Italian's blast of rights, which he followed by a fury of combinations.







The clinching and mauling continued into the fourth and fifth rounds. In the fourth, Hagler suffered a cut over his right eye. Antuofermo grabbed his opponent's head; and the two walked several feet in a vicious clinch. Later, the champion landed a right, followed by a Hagler barrage of straight rights to the body and some mix-'em-up shots to the head.

Hagler came on strong in the sixth round, swinging with desperate and furious rights. Antuofermo countered by pushing his opponent and stunning him with some strong lefts to the head.

Antuofermo came out slugging in the seventh round, leading with strong straight rights. These were instantly countered by Hagler, who opened a cut under the champion's right eye.

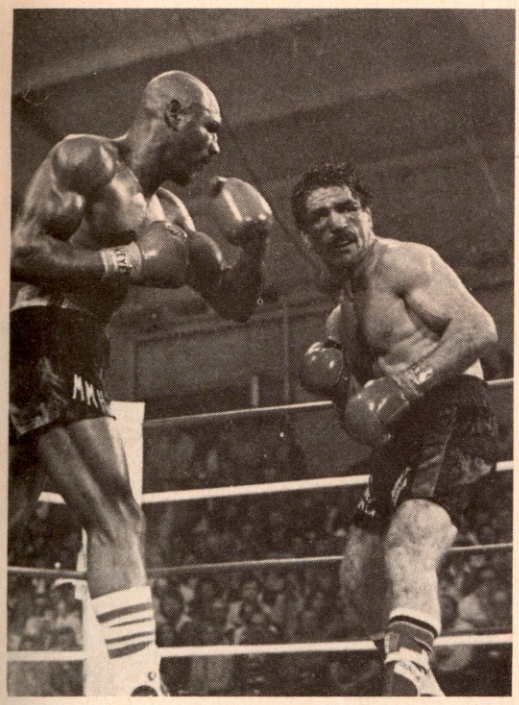
The eighth round began with the now-familiar clinch, which was broken by a strong right from Hagler. Antuofermo countered with several combinations, all the while attempting to push Hagler into the ropes.

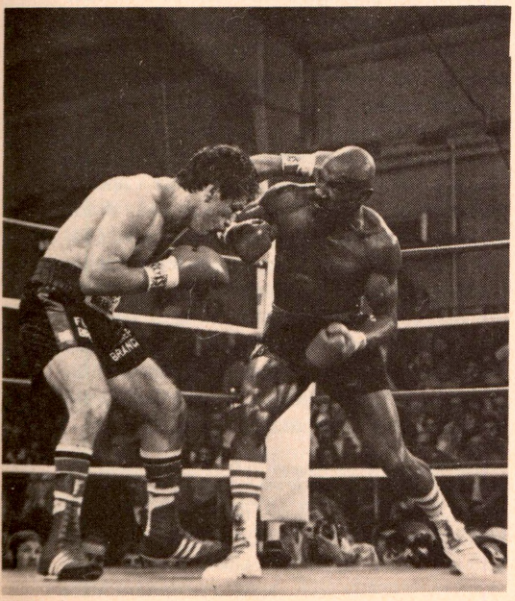
Antuofermo moved in at the ninth round, shoving Hagler back and catching him in a clinch. Hagler then maneuvered the champ to the ropes and dealt him some vicious shots to the head.

The 10th round saw Hagler fighting inside, landing some effective rights and battering the champ in a clinch. Antuofermo countered with his strong left, and had Hagler on the ropes by the end of the round.

Antuofermo stormed into the 11th round like a raging bull; but was met with some fierce overhand lefts and rights from his opponent. Hagler maneuvered the champ into a corner; and the two exchanged a savage series of punches. Many of Hagler's wide jabs missed their mark, but the 11th was probably the challenger's finest round.

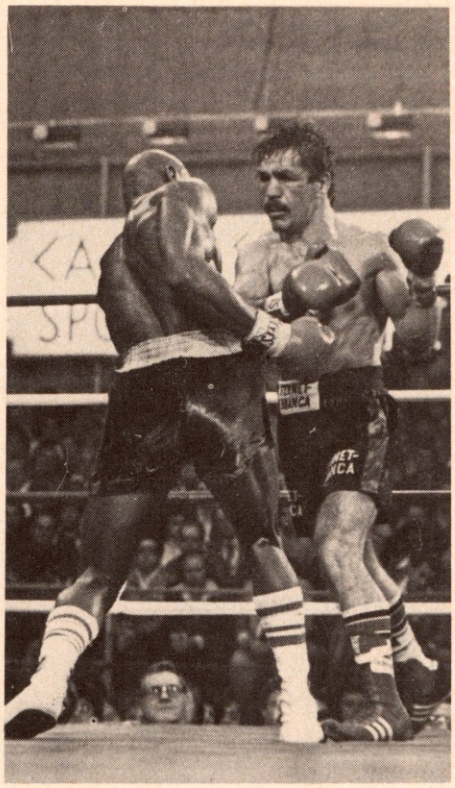
PHOTOS BY HERB HERPOLSHEIMER





Hagler took the offensive in the 12th round, pushing Antuofermo against the ropes. The champion appeared undaunted as he countered with some brutal combinations to Hagler's head and body.

The 13th round proved unlucky for both fighters. Antuofermo began bleeding heavily from his right ear; and from the earlier cut over his right eye. Hagler moved in and swung with some wild lefts — some hitting, some missing.



A now-desperate Hagler moved in strong in the 14th round, and stalked his opponent to the corner. Hagler's vicious punching was countered by Antuofermo's equally vicious combinations to Marvelous Marvin's bald head.

The 15th and final round was a free-for-all brawl, with Hagler working fierce combinations to the champion's head. Hagler did most of his fighting inside, and missed with several of his right-left combinations. Antuofermo countered effectively enough to win the round, the round which probaly saved him his title.

The draw decision was a shocker to both corners, and to the sold-out crowd.

The bombastic Hagler was in deep distress after the fight. And he exploded: "All this does is add to the bitterness in me. But I'm going to keep it there, because it will make me even meaner and tougher; and inspire me to work even harder; so the next time I'll come out as the champion!"

"In my heart", he went on, "I believe I am the middleweight champion. But this has taught me that I got to go in and knock out every man I fight in order to win. This is the second time I've been robbed like this. (Hagler's other "robbery" was a disputed decision given to Bobby Watts in 1976 in Philadelphia).

Marvelous Marvin further expounded: "Since when has there been a draw in a title bout? I should have put his lights out. I did everything right. I punished my body for months; and I was in top condition. I worked out some great strategy of moving, sticking, and mixing it up. But, next time, I know what I have to do. I'll be meaner, I'll be tougher, and I'll be the new middleweight champion!"

Vito Antuofermo, still the champion, maintained his low-key, soft-spoken personality as he stated: "The draw does not make me happy, but I'm very happy that I kept my title. I thought I won the fight, even though he confused me with his switch-hit style. I don't want to make any excuses; but I had a bad case of bronchitis, and Hagler himself can tell you I was coughing all through the fight.."

Antuofermo continued: "Sure, I'll give him a re-match. And, next time I'll be in better shape. I'll keep on top of him more, so there won't be any question who really won the fight!"

Antuofermo had been visibly disturbed in the days before the fight about the fact that he was the 4-1 underdog on the boards of the Las Vegas bookmakers. He was also distressed about rumors in fight circles that Hagler was the true champion; and that Antuofermo could not really be considered the world middleweight champion until he had fought and beaten the awesome number one contender.

For this reason, the proud Brooklyn brawler had agreed to fight Hagler in his first defense since winning the title from Hugo Corro six months earlier.

The middleweight title carries added significance since it is the only undisputed title in boxing today. The middleweight champion is recognized by both the WBC and the WBA.

The controversial scoring in the Hagler-Antuofermo title bout was as follows: judge Dalby Shirley, 144-142 for Antuofermo; judge Duane Ford, 145-141 for Hagler; judge Hal Miller, 143-143 — even.

—Shirley Norman

Larry Stanton, 144, Long Island, N.Y., won unanimous decision over Tony Petronelli, 141, Brockton, Mass., 10. Willie Jensen, 115½, Las Vegas, won unanimous decision over Mario Chabez, 115½, Los Angeles, 10. Roger Leonard, Palmer Park, Md., won unanimous decision over Ruby Robles, Los Angeles, eight, middleweights.

ARGUELLO-CHACON
WBC Junior Lightweight Title

INGLEWOOD, CALIF. — There was obvious relief on the face of Alexis Arguello when the ringside physician ruled Bobby Chacon was unable to continue due to a cut over his right eye. The World Boxing Council junior lightweight champion was behind on all three scorecards when he was awarded a TKO victory at the end of the seventh round.

Chacon took the loss gallantly. "I got the cut in the second and it got very bad in the seventh. I worked so hard for this opportunity, and now I come up empty. I thought I was in control all the way. But he's the champ all right. I guess he showed why."

Arguello was making his sixth defense of the 130-pound title (he made four successful defenses as the WBC featherweight champion), and now expects to challenge for the lightweight title.

"This was a big win for me," the lanky, smiling champion from Nicaragua said. "Yes, I would like to fight as a lightweight. But only if I was to fight for the title immediately. I don't want any warmups. If either champion is willing to fight me, then I will be ready."

Arguello's victory did not come easy. Chacon controlled the fight for most of the first six rounds, with perhaps the second being even. By the third frame, the kid who had been the hottest talent in L.A. in the early 1970s was fighting beautifully. The 27-year-old former featherweight champion looked as good as he did the night he knocked out Danny Lopez.

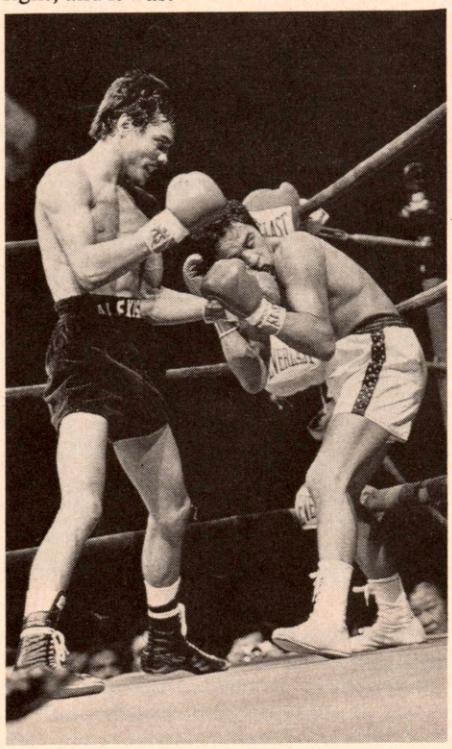
Moving well, throwing right hand leads, countering to the head, Chacon easily outboxed the 5'10" tall Arguello. Chacon, 129½, and five inches shorter than the champion, was almost always within Arguello's considerable reach, but gracefully feinted and slipped most of the punches thrown his way.

At the end of the sixth round, Arguello's frustration became evident as he hit Chacon twice to the head after the bell had sounded. The crowd which had been yelling "Bob-bee, Bob-bee," voiced its disapproval. Early in the seventh round, Arguello landed a short right uppercut that sent Chacon spiraling towards a neutral corner. He dropped to a crouch and took an eight-count from referee John Thomas.

Arguello's greater power was evident as he pinned Chacon against the ropes. He landed a half dozen good punches, but was unable to put together the finishing strokes. Blood was flowing from Chacon's eye as he delivered a series of sharp punches. He appeared to have recovered from the uppercut.

Between rounds, Dr. Roger Thill inspected the cut and halted the fight. The State Commission records will show that the fight was stopped due to a "badly lacerated right eye." Arguello, 129¾, and also 27, will be credited with a seventh round knockout win.

"Hey, Bobby Chacon is a good fighter," Arguello said in his dressing room. "He is a real intelligent guy. He knew what he had to do out there. He has a really good style, very intelligent. He fought his hardest. I told everyone it was going to be a tough fight, and it was."

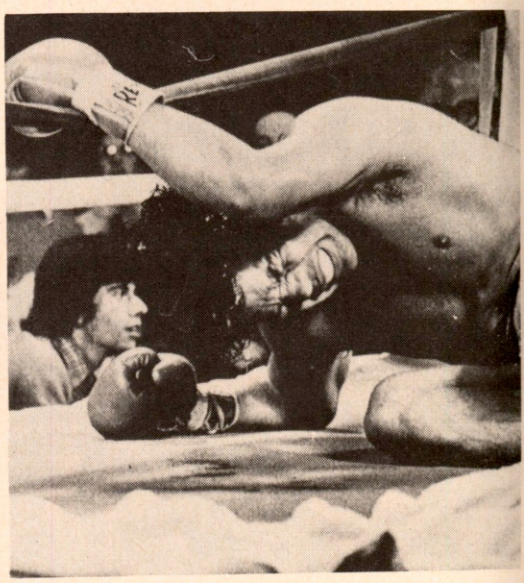


It was a bitter and frustrating loss for the fighter who had dazzled his way to stardom and big money in the first year and a half of his pro career. Chacon was the prodigal son of the sprawling L.A. suburbs and his rise to fame came quickly and dramatically. Fans may argue for a long time what would have happened had Chacon not substained the cut. It did appear, however, that Chacon, though in excellent shape, was not hitting with the power he had a few years ago.

"I had the right strategy," Chacon said. "A few punches were bound to get in and the ones that did were good ones. I have nothing to be ashamed of. It was the cut that did me in."

Arguello has recently moved from his home country to Coral Gables, Florida, and will eventually apply for U.S. citizenship. He received $110,000 and upped his record to 63-4, with 52 knockouts. Chacon earned $35,000 and his record is now 42-5-1, with 37 knockouts. The possibilities of a rematch are nil at this point.

The bout, held at The Forum, drew 11,151 fans and produced a gate of $165,134. Revenue from foreign and cable



TV should exceed $65,000, which will undoubtedly encourage Forum promoters to return. Now all they need is a hot attraction to pull the fans in.

Arguello's entry into the lightweight division, if and when it happens, should prove very interesting. It has been a few decades since a fighter held three different world titles, and already Arguello must be regarded as one of the best fighters of the past 10 years; in a league with the likes of Ali, Monzon, Duran, Olivares, and, perhaps, a few others.

Also to be considered, Arguello's last loss was to lightweight contender Vilomar Fernandez. And what about Espana, Watt, and new arrivals like Aaron Pryor and Hilmer Kenty? Duran's departure has ended a seven-year period of near dictatorship in the division. Now comes along a healthy and eager Alexis Arguello, prepared to lay claim to his third world championship. Pretty soon, the oldtimers will be saying he's almost as good as Sandy Sandler.

Eddie Logan, 119, Los Angeles, TKO'd Alfonso Zamora, 120, Mexico, at 0:36 of the ninth round in a scheduled 10. Gerardo Pena, 124, Mexico, stopped Francisco Pico, 128, Mexico, in the sixth round of a scheduled 10. Mark Davis, 124½, Los Angeles, kayoed Musio Nava, 128½, Mexico, in the second round. William "Blinky" Rodriguez, 159, San Fernando, won a split decision over Randy McGrady, 164, Los Angeles, four

—Christopher Coats

GALINDEZ-JOHNSON
WBA Light Heavyweight Title

NEW ORLEANS, LA. — Victor Galindez became the first man ever to *lose* the light heavyweight title twice when ex-WBC champ Marvin Johnson knocked him out with a crushing left to the jaw in the 11th round in the Superdome. And, in victory, Johnson became the second man ever to regain the light heavyweight crown. Galindez

was the first, halting Mike Rossman — to whom he had lost the WBA title in September, 1978 — in 10 rounds last April.

Johnson, 173½, Indianapolis, was in control of the fight from the opening bell against the 174¾-pound Galindez. He continually advanced behind powerful jabs from his southpaw stance and had the 31-year-old Argentine totally bewildered throughout the fight.

Galindez spent most of his time with his back against the ropes, hoping to draw Johnson in and counterpunch him into defeat. Johnson, however, was cautious, always "looking out for Galindez's powerful left hook." He advanced with his hands held high and made sure he returned them high after letting his own punches go.

Galindez, who has been fighting professionally since 1969, still slips punches remarkably well. But his reflexes have tarnished, and his hand speed has diminished, which leads to him missing punches.

With 20 seconds gone in the 11th round, the fight — and possibly the career of Victor Galindez — came to an end. After avoiding a powerful but extremely wild right, Johnson countered with an overhand left which caught Galindez hard on the right side of his face. The champion staggered, then stumbled backwards, crashing hard onto the canvas. As soon as he hit the canvas, his cornermen leaped into the ring, ending the fight.

The knockout was Johnson's 18th in a 24-3 record. The loss was the eighth for Galindez against 55 victories, four draws, and two no-contests. He has stopped 34 opponents. After the fight, Victor was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was found to have a broken jaw that required surgery.

Thomas Hearns, Detroit, won unanimous decision over Mike Colbert, Portland, Oregon, 10. Hilmer Kenty, Detroit, kayoed Scotty Foreman, three.
Paid attendance — 9,334. Telecast live over ABC.

—Joe Martino

SCOTT-LOPEZ

RAHWAY, N.J. — James Scott continued to prove that he is one of the premiere light heavyweights in the world today, as he gave veteran contender Alvaro (Yaqui) Lopez a first-rate body beating on the way to winning a 10-round unanimous decision in the auditorium at Rahway State Prison.

Besides soul singer James Brown's rendition of the national anthem, the SRO crowd of about 500 were treated to a clean, well fought, action packed fight. Lopez, however, was treated to a first hand rendition of the James Scott anthem, which is unrelenting pressure as well as a newfound left jab. Indeed, the smoothheaded assassin from Newark decided to use his jab to set things up for his inside attack after Lopez had slipped, countered, and jabbed his way through the first three rounds. Near the end of round four, Scott, who had Yaqui on the move for most of the session, caught him with a left hook, a straight right, and a double left hook combination which made the Californian's knees buckle. The bell saved Lopez.

Lopez, a 54-fight veteran, used his experience to stay the distance and keep Scott off balance. But it wasn't enough to stop Scott from pulling away during the middle rounds. By the seventh, Scott's fellow inmates had started to chant "JAMES SCOTT, JAMES SCOTT." Lopez had taken too much of a beating to run, and he didn't have enough stamina to mix it up.

Although the World Boxing Association had ranked Scott as high as number two in the world less than two months ago, they have since gone on record as stating that James Scott will not receive a title shot as long as he's in prison. At this point, it's anybody's guess as to whether the WBA will relent, but Scott's victory over Lopez goes into the books as a 10-round unanimous decision win and establishes him as a title threat.

Referee Tony Perez had it 8-2, while judges Harold Lederman and Paul Cavalier scored it 7-3 and 6-3-1, respectively. *The Ring* had it for Scott, 8-2.

Michael Ross, 138, TKO'd Archie Matthews, 135, at 2:36 of the second round. Tony Braxton, 158½, outpointed Franklin Fletcher, 160, six.

—Arthur Rembert

WATT-VASQUEZ
WBC Lightweight Title

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND — Scotland's Jim Watt, 135, kept his WBC world lightweight title by disposing of challenger Roberto Vasquez, an American born Mexican, in the ninth round of their bout in Kelvin Hall. Watt gave a cool, competent display and won every round with something to spare before American referee Rudy Ortega stopped the bout at 2:30 of the ninth.

It was Watt's first defense of the title, and his total purse money was £75,000, much of which came from a TV showing to America. It was also televised, live, in Britain.

Vasquez earned his title shot by means of a shock stoppage victory over top contender Andrew Ganigan, when, after trailing on points, the Mexican unleashed a right cross that put Andy on the deck. Soon after that, the fight was stopped in Roberto's favor.

It should be stressed that this was a voluntary defense on Watt's part, and that he must now put his crown at stake against the World Boxing Council's top contender, Vilomar Fernandez of the Dominican Republic.

It was experience (Watt is 31) against youth (Vasquez is 21) and skill against punching power. At least, that's what we had expected, but, alas, the challenger failed to produce the sort of punch that halted Ganigan.

Indeed, the Mexican spent most of the fight in corners of the ring, striving to keep out the jabbing, hooking attacks of the southpaw, Watt, and failing dismally.

All Vasquez had going for him was courage, and that wasn't enough against a determined champion who was confidence personified, and who had the tremendous advantage of boxing in front of a fanatical Scottish crowd who paid between £10 and £40 for the privilege of seeing their idol in action. Watt didn't let them down.

Vasquez stands only 5'5", and was dwarfed by his taller opponent. Gloves held high, Watt went in behind his right jab from the opening bell and steadily increased the tempo of the fight until Vasquez could only stand in a corner covering up, taking punch after punch without reply.

Jim took just one round to find his range; then it was one-way traffic. The champ came forward, beating a tattoo of rights and following lefts on his opponent's face and body. Occasionally, Vasquez would come out of his corner throwing punches, but never with much effect, and more often than not he would be forced back into a corner again.

For the first three rounds, Watt was content to stand upright and jab, obviously being a little wary of Vasquez's reputation as a puncher. But when he realized that the challenger's best shots had not hurt him, Jim came forward, and just pounded away, monotonously, as the Mexican covered up.

In rounds four and five, Watt got on top with short rights and lefts at close range, and there was no sign that Vasquez was improving. In fact, he looked like he had lost his spirit, and we began to think in terms of a stoppage as he absorbed more and more.

Rounds six, seven and eight followed the same pattern, and it now seemed only a question of when the referee would consider that the Mexican had had enough.

Watt is not noted as a boxer who can take a man out with one punch, but he was landing so often that Vasquez's head was gradually getting lower, and he had stopped retaliating.

That point, referee Ortega intervened, and the ring was crowded with officials and fans who wanted to congratulate Jim. He entered the ring wearing his championship belt and left it in the same manner, having proved himself a worthy title holder.

Interviewed in the ring by former WBC heavyweight champ Ken Norton, Watt paid tribute to his opponent and added that "If he is like this at 21, what's he going to be like in four or five years' time? He's a promising fighter."

"The funny thing is that, after hearing about Vasquez's shock win over Ganigan, we assumed he was a come-forward puncher. Only a short time before he got into the ring did we discover that he was a counter puncher.

Jim was delighted at his reception before the fight, and said he realized that he had a big responsibility, and was very conscious that he mustn't let his fans down. "But once I heard those pipes (the bagpipes that piped him into the ring), it gave me a boost."

"I knew that I was hurting him, because every time I hit him his face screwed up. But I boxed strictly to orders, and refused to take any chances until it was obvious that victory was there for the taking.

"Vasquez being so short meant that some of my best punches were landing on the top of his head. Now I've got to meet Fernandez, and I want this fight to be in Glasgow, too."

It is, of course, possible that the contest could be held in the Exhibition Hall in Glasgow, where Watt won his title last April and which holds 10,000. But, as his manager, Terry Lawless, pointed out, this time it is a compulsory defense, not a voluntary defense, so it will have to be negotiated. Watt can only hope that the venue turns out to be Glasgow. Wherever it is, his own purse is likely to be around £100,000.

Louis Loy, Vasquez's manager, said "Watt is a much better champion than we had been led to believe. As a matter of fact, I was just preparing to throw in the towel when the referee stopped it."

Obviously, Louis didn't realize that, in British rings, the throwing in of the towel is not accepted. But if it had happened, it is likely that the referee would have taken the hint.

For the record, the two ringside judges were both top British referees, namely, Harry Gibbs and Wally Thom, whose scorecards were not required.

In closing, a word of tribute to manager Terry Lawless. A couple of years ago, Jim was all ready to pack it in, and he is the first to admit that, since coming to London to join the Lawless stable, he has improved out of all recognition, a combination of his own ability and the astute handling of Terry, who also has another WBC world champion, Maurice Hope, in his stable.

—Ron Olver

WEAVER-LeDOUX

BLOOMINGTON, MINN. — Few fighters are as game as Scott LeDoux. Few fighters have as much determination as Scott LeDoux. Few fighters are as exciting as Scott LeDoux. Now, if Scott LeDoux only knew how to box, he would be a world champion.

In losing a unanimous 12-round decision to Mike Weaver of Los Angeles in a nationally televised bout, LeDoux fell far short of capturing the glamour, prestige, and accolades that were showered upon him after his 10-round draw against Ken Norton last August. In that fight, LeDoux started slow and came on strong, knocking Norton down in the last round.

Against the 212-pound "Hercules" Weaver, LeDoux couldn't get untracked. That's because Weaver wouldn't let him. As LeDoux, 220, looked to end the fight with left hooks thrown wide from his hips, Weaver was content to block and counterpunch.

LeDoux suffered a cut on his chin in the first round and another on the bridge of his nose in the fifth. Weaver found the "Fighting Frenchman" an easy target to hit, especially with jabs.

The first seven rounds of the bout were competitive, before a steady stream of Weaver left jabs began to turn the fight

into a romp. LeDoux showed little defense, especially during the last rounds, when he couldn't keep his face off the end of Weaver's left hand glove.

The victory upped Weaver's record to 20-9. LeDoux saw his ledger fall to 25-8-4.

Young Joe Louis, 188 outscored Jesse Burnett, 182, Los Angeles, 10. Michael Spinks, 180, St. Louis, TKO'd Marc Hans, 175, Minneapolis, one. Greg Page, 228½, Louisville, TKO'd James Reid, 204, Los Angeles, one. Tyrone Moore, 143, Louisville, TKO'd Lalo Hernandez, 148, Los Angeles, one.

The card was promoted by Muhammad Ali Professional Sports, held in the Metropolitan Sports Center, and shown live over CBS-TV.

—J.T. Greenrose

PEDROZA-ABA
WBA Featherweight Title

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA — Panamanian speedster Eusebio Pedroza, 126, the WBA featherweight champion, proved too strong for Johnny Aba, 125¾, a local favorite and the British Commonwealth junior lightweight champion, stopping him midway in the 11th round before about 5,000 partisan fans. It was Pedroza's sixth defense of the title he had won from Spaniard Cecilio Lastra via a 13th-round TKO in Panama on April 16, 1978.

It was a rather one-sided contest. Pedroza, 23 and 5'8" (three inches taller than Aba), studied the nervous challenger in the first three rounds. From the fourth round on, Pedroza was in complete control, making good use of his longer reach.

Aba, 22, who had won the Commonwealth crown by defeating Billy Moeller of Australia on December 1, 1977, threw some solid punches. Almost all, however, were avoided by Pedroza.

Outjabbing Aba and outclassing him, Pedroza piled up the points. His stinging punches weakened Johnny as the bout progressed.

The kayo came in the 11th session, when Pedroza nailed Aba to the ropes with a barrage of punches. The furious attack caused Aba to fall backward, out of the ring. Referee Stan Christodoulou, imported from South Africa, wisely called a halt.

Pedroza's record is now 25-3. Aba is 19-2-1.

The triumphant champ's purse was at least $150,000. Papua New Guinea backed the card and suffered a financial loss, chiefly due to the unexpectedly small crowd. It was like Shelby after the Dempsey-Gibbons fight in 1923.

"Aba," said Pedroza, "was a courageous fighter, but was still too green to win a world crown. My condition and showing were as good as usual."

The dejected loser apologized to his adherents for his less than impressive performance. "I'm sorry I couldn't meet people's expectations." —Joe Y. Koizumi

GUSHIKEN-ABELLA
WBA Junior Flyweight Title

TOKYO, JAPAN — Unbeaten southpaw Yoko Gushiken, Japan's WBA junior flyweight champion, furiously battered Tito Abella, a newcomer from the Philippines, dropped him four times, and knocked him out in the seventh round before 11,000 witnesses at Kuramae Arena.

The hard hitting Gushiken thus registered his 10th defense (seven knockouts) of the title he had won by knocking out Juan Guzman of the Dominican Republic in the seventh round on October 10, 1976.

Gushiken, nicknamed "Kanmuriwashi" ("fierce eagle" in Japanese), displayed aggressiveness against Abella, a contrast to the technique he'd displayed against Panama's Rafael Pedroza in his last defense. The Japanese lefthander had his shorter foe, Abella, on the deck in rounds one, three, five, and seven.

Gushiken, 108, was aggressive in the first round, tossing solid rights and lefts at his bewildered challenger. At the close of the round, Yoko shot a straight left to the button, sending Tito, 107¼, down with his gloves and knees on the canvas. It was a clean shot, and Gushiken later said he didn't think Abella would make it to his feet. But the game Filipino did, and was saved by the bell.

Tito, two years younger than Gushiken, who is 24, had earned the title shot by knocking out Chi-Bok Kim in six rounds in Seoul on September 1. Abella, 18-3 with eight kayoes, then subbed for Kim who had been scheduled to meet Gushiken.

The second round saw Yoko and Tito exchange solid punches, but Gushiken's body shots got home to the midsection of Abella more effectively. Tito was still nervous.

Gushiken, one and a half inches taller than Abella, floored his foe with a right-left-right combination in the action packed third round. The Filipino, who had never hit the canvas before facing Yoko, got up and came back for more.

Abella, according to the newspapers, had been taught a method of fighting southpaws by his left-handed handler, former world junior lightweight champion Flash Elorde. After being floored, Abella caught Gushiken with a short sharp right, sending him off-balance. Yoko, though, fought back hard as the round drew to a close.

The crouching challenger had lost only three times in a 30-bout amateur career prior to his pro debut in June, 1976. Abella's last defeat was a six-round TKO at the hands of Thailand's former WBC junior flyweight champion, Netrnoi S. Vorasingh, in February 1978. Since then, he had remained unbeaten in seven bouts, with four stoppages.

In round four, Gushiken attacked with smashing combinations while Abella attempted short left hooks to the champion's temple. Yoko took the round by a slight margin. Abella hit the deck again in the fifth session, as Yoko lowered his guard with body blows and sent a vicious left hand to the face. Abella beat the count, amazing, not only the sell-out crowd, but Gushiken as well. Yoko got a little wild trying for a finish and missed plenty during the rest of the round.

Gushiken clearly took the sixth round, scoring well with straight left hands. The knockout came at 0:53 of the seventh, when Gushiken landed a wicked right uppercut to the chin. Abella sank to the canvas and laid there, motionless, while referee Tezaki tolled the fatal 10.

It was Gushiken' 20th victory and 14th knockout. He's won all his fights.

The huge partisan crowd cheered wildly, but your reporter did not think it was Gushiken's best showing. Yoko often missed with roundhouse punches, and, if Abella had been able to produce sharper right hand counters, the Japanese champ might have faced an unexpected crisis.

"I'm very happy to retain my title for the 10th time," said the victorious Gushiken. Abella was stronger than I had thought. As I knew Abella was aiming to counterpunch, I couldn't use my right leads as smoothly as usual. I'll do my best in every one of my forthcoming bouts." His manager, Masaki Kanehira, was jubilant. "My boy is still 24. He will take aim at beating the 25 defenses of the great Joe Louis." All managers who have high hopes seem eloquent.

The badly battered Abella admitted to Gushiken's power. "The champ was a real hard hitter. His punches hurt me when they landed on my shoulders."

As the loser's handler, Elorde, said, the result was due, in part, to Gushiken's greater experience.

It was truly a good night for Yoko, who received the highest purse of his career, reportedly 53 million yen, which is equivalent to about $220,000.

Japan is a good market for the junior flyweight champ.

In the semi-final, Minoru Sugiya, 141½, Japan's top junior welterweight contender and Gushiken's stablemate, won a shutout unanimous decision over Kazuyoshi Nakao, 140½, Nagoya, 10. — Joe Y. Koizumi

RINGS AROUND THE WORLD

NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

▲ LOS ANGELES — Olympic Auditorium — It was a bad night for the "Cuyo" Hernandez stable. Three of his unbeaten prospects lost on the card promoted by Rogelio Robles' Azteca Promotions. Robles had big plans for them. He had used the Mexicans exclusively on his smaller promotions to build them up. Now he must rebuild.

In the main event, world rated flyweight Joey Olivo, 108½, Los Angeles, won a hard fourth 10-round decision over formerly unbeaten Javier Mendoza, 111½, Mexico. It was a classic battle pitting boxer against puncher. Olivo's hand speed, movement, and longer reach had the puncher, Mendoza, chasing a shadow. The fight at times reminded one of the Ali-Frazier fights in terms of styles and intensity. Olivo's lightning fast combinations beat a steady tattoo on Mendoza's face and body.

Offsetting his opponent's fierce two-fisted attacks to the head and body, Olivo is a double title threat as a junior flyweight and flyweight. In action, he resembles a small version of Muhammad Ali.

Eddie Logan, 120, Los Angeles, won a unanimous 10-round decision over Rafael Pena, 116½, Mexico. Pena started like a house afire and fizzled out like a wet blanket. He won the first three rounds easily with strong body shots. Then Logan closed on his taller foe with bulldog tactics and solid rights to the head of the tiring Pena.

Gerardo Pena, 126, Mexico, 126, Mexico, a fine prospect, won a 10-round decision over durable Refugio Rojas, 128, Los Angeles. Gerardo was the only "Cuyo" Hernandez fighter to win that night. He's also the best of the bunch. His record is now 9-0 with seven knockouts.

Mario Chavez, 115, Los Angeles, scored a sensational kayo over favored Jose Herrera, 112, Mexico, in the second round. They were trading punches when a left hook stunned Herrera. Chavez pounced like a cat and dropped Herrera for an eight-count with another left hook. A vicious right then dropped him for the 10-count.

Paid attendance — 1,817. Gross — $11,651.

▲ LOS ANGELES — Olympic Auditorium — Unbeaten Rocky Garcia, 127, Placentia, left no doubt in anyone's minds over who wins his rematch with Roberto Garcia, 127, Mexico.

This was a back alley brawl. Rocky got off faster with strong rights and lefts to win the unanimous decision after 10 rounds. The scores were 100-91, 99-92, and 99-91. Rocky is 14-0.

George Garcia, 119, won a unanimous decision over Johnny Papin, 119, Los Angeles, 10. George, no relation to Rocky, is now 5-0.

Tony Cerda, 159, stopped Gambino Rivera, 160, Los Angeles, in the third round of a scheduled six. Sergio Castro, 119, Los Angeles, outscored Mike Rodriguez, 123, five. Mark Davis, 125, Los Angeles, won his second pro fight, outpointing Luis Avila, 126, Los Angeles, five.

Paid attendance — 1,049. Gross — $5,582.00.

▲ LOS ANGELES — Sports Arena — Muhammad Ali Professional Sports (MAPS) had an ocean of red ink to swim in; they deserved a better fate. Promoter Sammie Marshall and matchmaker Norm Henry gave the fans an exceptional show, but, for one reason or another, the show was a financial loser. The fights were all action packed, and the real losers were the fans who didn't show up.

Leo Randolph, 118¾, Santa Monica, passed his biggest test as a pro when he pressured his opponent, Oscar Muniz, 118, Los Angeles, into defeat. The sharpshooting Randolph stalked Muniz relentlessly, never giving him an opportunity to get set or get off with his own shots. Muniz tried; he zigged and zagged, danced, and ran, but to no avail. Everywhere Oscar went, there was a right or left stuck in his face. Randolph had all the answers; Muniz the questions.' It was a painful setback for Muniz, who wanted to move on to better things. Randolph is on his way. He proved in this fight that he has the ability to figure out an experienced opponent who tried all he knew to win. Randolph had some bad moments. In the sixth, his nose was bloodied. In the seventh, he appeared to have been stunned. Each time, however, he came back with punches to back Muniz up. Randolph is learning his trade, but he'll soon be teaching it to a few unfortunate contenders in his path to the title. The decision was split in Randolph's favor.

Herman Montes, 134, Los Angeles, a bright prospect, had a mighty rough evening courtesy of Camilo Ibarra, 134, an extremely tough customer from south of the border. The action was nip and tuck throughout, each man trying to fight his fight. The fight was marred by low blows. One dropped Montes in the fourth and both were dropped from low blows in the eighth. Ibarra, like most visitors from Mexico, likes to fight on the inside and bang the body. Montes fights best on the outside, keeping the action in mid-ring. When Montes used his jab, it was his fight, but whenever Ibarra fought his way inside, the sparks flew. The bout was exciting, and the decision in favor of Montes was unanimous.

Monroe Brooks, 139, Los Angeles, appearing in his second bout this year, fought like a demon to batter and stop rugged Howard Jackson, 143, Los Angeles, at 2:45 of the 10th and final round. The only knockdown came in the last round, when a smashing left hook floored Jackson.

Ted Sanders, 162, Los Angeles, stopped favored Lamont Lovelady, 162, Santa Monica, in the eighth round with a smashing right. This was the third time this year that Sanders beat someone he wasn't supposed to.

Purcell "Baby Face Magic" Davis, 217, Detroit, Mich., was behind on points on all cards going into the fifth round with Reggie Phillips, 199¾, Los Angeles. In the fifth, Davis' magic finally clicked when he landed a terrific right to heavily drop Phillips. Reggie went down two more times and the bout was stopped at 2:03 of the fifth round.

Amateur star J.B. Williamson, 159, Indianapolis, made a successful pro debut by winning every round from Danny Mancino, 160½, Huntington, in a four-round bout.

It's really a shame that fans don't support shows like this.

Paid attendance — 900. Gross — $10,167.00.

▲ LOS ANGELES — Olympic Auditorium — Title bound Frankie Baltazar, 133, La Puente, got a much needed workout at the expense of veteran Alejandro "Cordobes" Lopez, 128¼, Tijuana. Baltazar dominated the fight from beginning to end, but the bout was far from easy, as the veteran scored with hard rights to the head. Baltazar scored the fight's only knockdown with a short left counter in the fifth. The verdict was unanimous in favor of Baltazar: 100-90, 100-88, and 100-89. Frankie has been promised a title shot against Samuel Serrano early in 1980.

Sensational prospect Sal Lopez, 146, Sacramento, destroyed an overmatched Kenny Davis, Jr., 146½, Los Angeles, in the second round. Lopez is a former stablemate of WBA welterweight champion Jose (Pipino) Cuevas. Davis is managed by his father, Kenny Davis, a former boxer and referee. Davis, Sr., specifically asked for Lopez. Why?

Blaine Dickson, 128¼, El Monte, Calif., got up from a first round knockdown to outslug Mory Cissy, 129½, Ivory Coast, and get the six-round decision. Adolfo Hurtado, 129, Los Angeles, outscored Apolo Carbajal, 130, Mexico, five.

Paid attendance — 1,612. Gross — $6,444.00.

▲ LOS ANGELES — Olympic Auditorium — What appeared to be a good match on paper turned out to be a mismatch. Juan (Kid) Meza, 127, Mexicali, was supposed to be tested by hard hitting Roy Hernandez, 126, Stockton. Hernandez came in with a record of 17-4 with 14 knockouts. Meza, meanwhile, was on a five-bout kayo run. A war was forecasted, but it turned out to be a one-sided massacre. Hernandez went down twice, the last time for the full count and then some from a slashing left hook to the liver. The time was 2:25 of the first round. Hernandez was rolling on the canvas in agony. Meza is a devastating puncher, and has a bright future ahead of him if brought along properly.

Armando Ramirez, 140, Mexico, was too strong a puncher for Jose Osuna, 136, Los Angeles, in a companion 10. Osuna was a thoroughly beaten fighter at the end. He suffered cuts and bruises and was floored three times. The referee stopped it just as the bell ended the fifth round. The time, according to the ref, was 2:59.

Unbeaten Tony Baltazar, 134½, La Puente, dropped Clemente Enriquez, 133½, Los Angeles, with the first real punch of the fight, a smashing left hook. Enriquez went down twice more from the same punch and the fight was stopped at 2:38 of the first round. Baltazar thus improved on his last showing, when this same Enriquez gave him all he could handle before being stopped on a cut in five rounds.

Adolfo Hurtado, 128, Zacatecas, won unanimous decision over Ricardo Martinez, 129, McAllen, Texas, four.

Paid attendance — 1,749. Gross — $6,518.00.

▲ LOS ANGELES — Olympic Auditorium — This was a "battle" between close friends who fought like they were in a friendly sparring session in the gym. Alejandro Oregel, 129¼, Mexico, had the skills, but used them sparingly. Rosendo Ramirez, 129, Mexico, fought a defensive fight, rarely throwing any punches. Matchmaker Don Chargin told both fighters to pick up the action through the referee. But, after eight rounds of inaction, the ref declared it a no-contest.

The prelims made this card worthwhile. Four undefeated, talented fighters appeared, and future shows at the Olympic seem bright.

Outstanding prospect Sal Lopez, 143, Sacramento, scored his third straight kayo at the Olympic, flattening Ivory Coast import Adrain Boiza, 144½, in the second with a right-left combination. Lopez is now 10-0 with eight kayoes.

Tony Cerda, 153, Pomona, had the fight of his life with John Steve, 160, San Diego. Steve is a tremendous puncher, and he proved it in this fight when he floored Cerda twice in the second. After that, he tired. Cerda opened a deep cut over Steve's left eye in the third round, and that brought about the stoppage in Tony's favor. What a fight! A return is advised.

Lanky puncher Humberto de los Rios, 151½, Pomona, a bright prospect, won a six-round decision over more experienced Rafael Corona, 154, Oakland. Corona was down twice from crunching left hooks to the head. De los Rios threw left hooks similar to the one with which Alexis Arguello dropped and stopped Alfredo Escalera.

"Bulldog" George O'Mara, 203, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, battered hapless Hurricane Lacey, 184½, Odessa, Texas, for two and a half rounds. Midway into the third, Lacey raised his hands and signalled he was through for the evening.

▲ INGLEWOOD — Forum — On the Arguello-Chacon undercard: Former world bantamweight champion Alfonso Zamora, 120, Mexico, met a determined Eddie "Motorboat" Logan, 119, Los Angeles, in a classic battle of attrition. From the first bell, they rushed at each other with both fists blazing. Zamora, by far the harder puncher, threw some awesome body shots. Each blow landed with a heavy thud. Logan, a slow starter, was taking a severe pounding to the head and body. In the third, he was cut on the inside of his mouth from a left-right combo, and was swallowing blood for the remainder of the fight. In the fifth, an accidental butt caused a deep gash over his left eye. The referee called in the ringside physician to inspect the cuts at the end of the fifth, sixth, and seventh rounds.

In the sixth round, Logan went down from a long left hook to the chin. He was a bloody mess at the end of the seventh, when he was warned that the fight would be stopped. Zamora had thrown his best shots and Logan was still there. That does something to a man's confidence. Zamora had been used to knocking out his opponents with a single swipe of either hand. Logan not only took the punches, but kept firing back with shots of his own which, by the seventh, were beginning to bother Zamora. Logan was battered, cut, and bleeding, but at no time did he quit throwing punches or lose heart. As they stood facing each other before the beginning of the eighth round, each had his own plan: Zamora had been told to take Logan out of there. Logan knew it would be a do-or-die round for him. Summoning on some unknown reserve of heart and power, he lashed out at his more powerful opponent. Zamora came in wide open and Logan took advantage of it. A smashing left hook caught Zamora flush on the chin, dropping him flat on his back. The question then was, did Logan have enough left to finish him or was that his last gasp? Zamora was up at eight and rallied with a flurry of punches to last the round. Both warriors went back to the corners spent. In the ninth, Logan rushed out throwing everything he had left in a desperate gamble. This was it; it was now or never.

A series of lefts and rights trapped Zamora on the ropes as Alfonso started a counterattack. He was hit with a vicious left hook-short right combo and the referee jumped in to save Zamora, who stumbled around from the effects. The time was 0:36 of the ninth round. A sensational win in a sensational fight, and a tip of the hat to both fighters. Logan is now in line for a title bout with Lupe Pintor.

Good looking prospect Gerardo Pena, 124, Mexico, stopped Francisco Pico, 128, Mexico, in the sixth round of a scheduled 10. Pico was down twice from straight rights.

Unbeaten Mark Davis, 124½, Los Angeles, kayoed Musio Nava, 128½, Mexico, in the second round. Heavy punching William "Blinky" Rodriguez, 159, San Fernando, won a four-round split decision over previously undefeated Randy McGrady, 164, Los Angeles. Rodriguez is a former kick boxer with a style reminiscent of ex-middleweight champ Rocky Graziano. This was his pro debut.

Paid attendance — 9,998. Gross — $165,137.00.

LOUIS MESORANA

▲ OAKLAND — Auditorium — Tommy Evans kept his hopes alive for getting a shot at the recently created cruiserweight title by trouncing Tony Greene with a second round kayo.

Evans, 184, from Richmond, was never given a serious challenge by his Miami opponent. A series of blows, none very sharp, dropped Greene near the end of the first round. Between rounds, referee Rudy Ortega warned Greene that his purse might be held up if he didn't put out a better effort.

In the second, Greene went down three times, from a variety of punches, half punches and near misses. The fight was called off at 2:34. The 1,771 fans on hand, who paid $12,603, were there to watch the local hero win, but there was very little cause for celebration. In fact, Greene had been talking about retiring from boxing a half hour before stepping into the ring!

State athletic executive officer Jim Baiz ordered that Greene

be fined $200 of his $1,500 purse for "non-performance." In the past year, California fans have been cheated by pathetic efforts in too many instances from imported fighters. A few months ago, in Stockton, Ernie Barr (also from Miami), quit on his stool against "Yaqui" Lopez, claiming his gloves were too tight. Barr was also fined, but that does little good for the fight fan who was cheated out of watching an honest effort.

Evans is hopeful of getting a shot at the winner of the Mate Parlov-Marvin Camel bout for the vacant 190-pound title. Evans and quite a few other fighters have been fortunate that a division has been opened up between the light-heavyweight and heavyweight ranks. It is surprising that this division was not created years ago.

"I have to keep winning to get a title shot," Evans said in his dressing room. "Yeah, this was my easiest win and that's not what I really need. Really, I'd rather fight guys that would give me a real tough time. Then I would learn something."

Evans pushed his record to 15 wins, two losses, and one draw, with 14 of the wins by kayo. The show was promoted by Babe Griffin and, with good cause, he was unhappy with Greene's effort.

The undercard was generally good, with only one of the four bouts ending by kayo. George O'Mare, 203, Los Angeles, won a unanimous five-round decision over Bob Swoopes, 226, Los Angeles. O'Mare was down in the first but soon after took control of the fight with a body attack. Robert Robitaille, 176, Vallejo, kayoed Bobby Gil, 175, Los Angeles, in the third.

Ricky Wynn, 147, San Francisco, drew with Dave Garza, 147, San Jose, over five rounds. Finally, Carlos Lozano, Sacramento, 138, won a unanimous decision over game Miguel Gonzales, 138, L.A.

CHRISTOPHER COATS

COLORADO

▲ PUEBLO — State Fairgrounds Agricultural Palace — Game veteran Al Banks, 188, made it more of a scrap than expected with his body punching before being knocked cold by a double left hook from Denver's Eric Sedillo, 197, in 1:52 of the third round.

Wendell Bull, the matchmaker, and Dave Watson's Colorado Boxing Association returned pro boxing — and Eric Sedillo — to Pueblo after an absence of many years. They provided a fine five-bout homecoming before 1,000 fans.

Getting off to a fast start, commanding the action with left hooks and combinations that moved between the head and body, Sedillo flashed the grit that had made him the Outstanding Fighter in the Rocky Mountain Gloves regionals in Pueblo in 1975.

Sedillo, however, became over anxious in the second round, as he admitted later, and was troubled by an onslaught of body punches from Banks. Sedillo had become, inexplicably, short of breath at the start of the session. It may have been a case of nerves. He was appearing before the Pueblans he had spent years with in college, and the relatives he grew up with in nearby Florence. Sedillo still managed to put Banks into a corner with a hook and then follow with another hook — hard.

Working to both head and body with his combos, Sedillo's right cut Banks' left eye before he kayoed the determined Al, who had had some success with an attack with uppercuts. For Sedillo, the bout proved a needed tuneup for his Home Box Office Cable TV debut against unbeaten Young Joe Louis in Atlantic City. If he wins that, Sedillo has been promised a spot on the undercard of the proposed heavyweight elimination bout between Leroy Jones and Ron Lyle, talked about for January in Denver, if it comes off.

Frank Lawson, Dallas, 145, a southpaw, and J.J. Cottrell, also 145, Denver, drew, eight. Lawson had just recovered from a week long cold that prevented him from training, and Cottrell paid for his frequent preference for showmanship over trenchwork. The crowd was behind Lawson, whose hard right puffed up J.J.'s cheek in the fifth round.

James Ortega, 127, Denver, TKO'd James Cleveland, 125, Dallas in the second. Felipe Garcia, 123, Denver, won unanimous decision over Albert Cruz, 117, Dallas. Fred Muhammad (aka Grogan), 261, Denver, won unanimous decision (58-48, 59-48, 59-54) over southpaw Zach Ferguson, 212, Dallas, six.

MICHAEL KLAHR

CONNECTICUT

▲ BRISTOL — Arena — Upsets studded the second show in what may be a series of boxing bills presented by promoter Bob Cattarius, whose main drawing cards were stopped in the feature and semi-final.

Thunderous cheers from a crowd of 600 (contributing to a gross gate of $4,800, greeted Bristol light heavyweight Dana McCarthy in the main event, and heavyweight Dick Embleton, from nearby Thomaston, in the semi. But the roars were stilled, as neither got beyond four rounds in slated sixes. McCarthy couldn't come out for the fifth, and Embleton was stopped in the fourth.

Hartford's Muhammad Shabazz, 167, came in as a substitute and, after McCarthy, 169, held a slight edge in the first two sessions, Shabazz took over in the third. A series of rocking right hand shots to head and body finally dropped Dana for a mandatory eight-count, and, after Shabazz raked him with two-fisted assaults in the fourth, McCarthy's handlers conceded defeat after the bell rang for the fifth.

Calvin Langston, 192, Bridgeport, was jarred by a left hook in the first round, as Embleton swung for a swift kayo. The latter, in turn, was rocked by Calvin's comeback in the second. From then on, the Bridgeport thumper whacked his open target until Dick's defenseless posture in the fourth led Langston to appeal to referee Sal Maltempo to halt the bout. Seconds later, he did, and, almost simultaneously, towels fluttered into the ring from Embleton's corner. It was a TKO at 1:20 of the fourth round.

McCarthy complained of a rib injury after the fight, and said he had his training slate interrupted for a week by viral infection.

Prelim bouts, all scheduled four-rounders: Victor Arnau, 128, Hartford, kayoed Eddie Flores, 130, in 1:13 of the fourth in scoring his third knockout in as many pro fights. Marcus Starks, 138, Hartford, got a roundly booed split decision over Charlie Newell, 140, Somers, Conn. Miguel Sanchez, 152, Bridgeport, kayoed Felix Campos, 153, in 1:59 of the second. Guy Kennedy, 155, New York City, outpointed Juan Figueroa, 152, Fitchburg, Mass. Ike Taylor, 151, Fitchburg, Mass., TKO'd Dave Black, 148, Stratford, Conn., at 1:09 of the second.

▲ HARTFORD — Civic Center — Hector Ortiz, 147½, Hartford, was a happy man for a change as he got a controversial majority decision over Steve Snow, 148, Holyoke, Mass., in the eight-round feature bout.

The decision, in what was the fifth fight between the pair in nine months here, evened the series at two victories apiece and one draw. The last time they met, in an odd seven-rounder, Ortiz created such a scene after losing that he had to be escorted from the hall by police.

A final round knockdown scored by Ortiz just before the bell won it for him this time. Judge Sal Maltempo's 36-35 card, coupled with referee John (Duke) Lawson's 38-36 vote, gave Hector the nod. Judge Pinky Morris had it a draw, 36-36. About 1,000 fans contributed to a gate close to $7,000.

Controversy raged over two and possibly three knockdowns Snow may have scored, but which were ruled no knockdowns by referee Lawson. "He called them not clear knockdowns," complained furious veteran boxing handler Pat Bartlett of Springfield, Mass., to all who would listen. One came in the fifth, when Snow hit Ortiz, who awkwardly staggered backward with arms flailing and went down to a knee. Hector rose so quickly, with the crowd on its feet roaring, that the ref ruled it no knockdown.

Snow got up from a knockdown in the sixth round, and in turn apparently dropped Ortiz with a left hook. Again, the ref ruled it no knockdown. The same thing happened in the seventh. In both cases, Hector leaped up very fast.

Scheduled six-rounders: Benny Benitez, 146, Springfield, and Marcus Starks, 142, Hartford, drew. Charlie Newell, 148, Somers, Conn., TKO'd Alfredo Franco, 149, New Haven, at 1:54 of the fifth.

Scheduled four-rounders: Rafael Lopez, 134, Pawtucket, R.I., knocked out Spider Blackwell, 131, Springfield, Mass., in 1:40 of the second. Felix Nance, 144, Norwich, Conn., knocked out Tony Rodriguez, 146, Springfield, Mass., in 1:05 of the second. Miguel Quiles, 134, Hartford, won unanimous decision over Pat Brennan, 134, Long Island, New York. Juan Figueroa, 152, Fitchburg, Mass., won unanimous decision over Steve Small, 156, Westport, Conn.

JOSEPH CASSANO

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

▲ HONOLULU, OAHU — Blaisdell Memorial Center — Randy Shields, 146½, Los Angeles, halted Noli Galicha, 145¾, Philippines, with an awesome display of hard, accurate ripping punches at 2:41 of the first round. Galicha was floored twice; a definite mismatch.

In a companion 10-round bout, Ralph Aviles, 131, Honolulu, knocked out Rolando Pastor, 131½, Philippines, in the sixth.

Malo Fale, 135½, Honolulu, stopped Ful Sumagaysay, 136, Philippin in the first round. Mike Rashad, 155¾, Miami, outscored Carl Poff, 157¾, Honolulu, six. Winnie Guinieta, 140, Philippines TKO'd Terry Welch 141¾, Panama, in the sixth.

The card was promoted by Boxing Enterprises, Ltd.

▲ HONOLULU, OAHU — Blaisdell Memorial Center — Rolando Navarrete, 130, Philippines, scored his fourth straight win by knocking out Junichi Okubo, 129¼, Japan, in the third round. Okubo, who did not belong in the same ring with Navarrete, went down six times in the first two rounds. Referee Manny Tolentino stopped the carnage in the third.

Julio Rodrigues, 110, Honolulu, outpointed Joe "Magic" Salvidar, 111½, Philippines, 10.

Frank Harris, 118¼, Honolulu, knocked out Caesar Zulueta, 117¾, Philippines, in the second round. Curtis Azevedo, 175¾, TKO'd Moses Halafuka, 171½, Honolulu, in the second. Armando Ugalde, 116, Los Angeles, outpointed Rey Carino, 118, Honolulu, six. Vito Meredith, 141, Samoa, TKO'd Julio Alfonso, 142½, Dominican Republic in the first.

The card, promoted by Kuwashi Enterprises, grossed $29,798.00.

▲ HONOLULU, OAHU — Malo Fale, 133¾. Honolulu, outpointed Mar Basa, 135¼, Philippines, in the 10-round main event.

In another tenner, Jose Osuma, 138¾, Los Angeles, outscored Winnie Guineta, 137¾, Philippines.

In the third 10-rounder, Noli Galicha, 152¼, Philippines, outscored Dave Meadows, 153, Honolulu.

Mike Rashad, 154½, Miami, outpointed Danny Gonder, 154¼, Georgia, three. Ric Raquel, 130¾, Honolulu, and Fred Baclaan, 132¼, Honolulu, drew, three.

TED YAMACHIKA

INDIANA

▲ INDIANAPOLIS — Tyndall Armory — "Slammin'" Sammy NeSmith, 158, Indianapolis, ran his record to 31-4 (27 kayoes) with an impressive unanimous ten-round decision over Jerome "Silky" Jackson, 159, Philadelphia.

Seven weeks before, Jackson danced and jabbed his way to a split decision win over Indiana middleweight champion Gary "Ice Man" Guiden in the Hoosier capital. The slick Philadelphian returned to Indiana with confidence in his ability to best another top-notch Hoosier middleweight.

Indianapolis resident "Sarge" Tom Johnson, 1976 U.S. Olympic boxing coach, had diligently worked with Sammy over the last three weeks to get him ready for this night.

During the first four rounds, NeSmith pressed the action, scoring at times to his opponent's head and mid-section, while catching some pesky jabs on the face. Jackson either took on the gloves or managed to slip most of the damaging blows during this period. Early in the fifth round, NeSmith hurt his adversary with a right uppercut, then scored well with combinations, with Jackson clinching to weather the round.

After an uneventful sixth, the Hoosier uncorked a seventh round right cross to Jerome's temple that dropped him briefly to a knee for the eight-count.

In the tenth round, a left hook again floored Jackson for an eight-count and, even though he was staggered a couple more times late in the last round, the rugged 19-year-old from Philly did not go down again.

The 1,081 paid crowd (the total attendance looked more like 1,500) voiced their approval during the exciting contest. Judges Tom Catterson and John Caldwell scored it 100-91 and 98-91, respectively, and referee George Defabis had it 99-88, all for NeSmith. This reporter had it 98-92 in favor of NeSmith.

Promoter Fred Berns and matchmaker Pete Susens had trouble with last minute pull-outs on the four-bout undercard.

"Smokin'" Jimmy Roberson, 227, Muncie, Indiana, registered his first pro knockout at 2:10 of round one over Craig Arnold, 187, St. Louis. Robertson, who moves well for a big man, now has a 5-4-3 record. This was scheduled for six.

Two slick Indiana welterweights met in a four-rounder with Mark Lemerick, 146, Anderson, winning his pro debut over Jamie Knox, 146, Muncie, by decision. This was a crowd-pleasing confrontation.

Heavyweight "Ruffhouse" Tom Fisher, Dayton, Ohio, knocked out outclassed Tim Tankersley, Cincinnati, at 2:00 of round one in a scheduled six-rounder.

In another four-rounder, Classy Charlie "Choo Choo" Brown, 140, Philadelphia, disposed of journeyman Jerry Strickland, 140, Cincinnati, at 1:25 of round two.

GARY L. MERRITT

KANSAS

▲ WICHITA — Century II Auditorium — Welterweight Pat Hallacy of Wichita scored an easy 10-round decision over Bruce Strauss of Omaha before a crowd of 1,000 fans.

Hallacy completely dominated the bout, as Strauss failed to land any punches of note at any time during the contest. The southpaw Hallacy used his height and reach advantages to advantage over his much shorter opponent, and his southpaw jabs and follow-up left put Strauss on the canvas four times.

All three judges had the 23-year-old Hallacy winning easily. Two scores of 100-86 and one of 100-84 reflected the total domination of the bout by Hallacy. The Wichita Irishman is now 22-1 as a pro.

In a companion 10-rounder, brother Ned Hallacy TKO'd Al Bell, Chicago. Bell claimed his shoulder hurt too much for him to continue and did not answer the bell for the fifth round. This was a light heavyweight contest.

In a bout that saw both fighters make their pro debuts, Terry Stadneau, Kansas City, won a four-round unanimous decision over Marshall Villa, Jr., Wichita. This was a lightweight bout.

Odell Willis, Wichita, made a successful pro debut. He halted Joe Acosta, Kansas City, in 0:56 of the first round. This was a middleweight fight scheduled for six rounds.

Muskogee, Ok., middleweight Don Masterson stopped John McDuff, Dodge City, on a cut left eye at 1:36 of the third round.

In a heavyweight bout, Lon Dale Friesen, Wichita, TKO'd Louis Brown, Okmulgee, Ok., at 2:03 of the second round.

The card was a Dick Meek promotion.

RON COPHER

▲ WICHITA — Century II Auditorium — Welterweight Pat Hallacy, Wichita, pounded out a unanimous 10-round decision over Justice Ortiz, New York, before a wildly cheering crowd of 1,000 partisan fans.

Ortiz, a clever and tough veteran, forced Hallacy to fight, perhaps, the best fight of his career. Hallacy, however, did seem a bit tentative. ". . . tonight I caught myself hesitating when I wanted to throw a punch," admitted Hallacy.

Hallacy, who had lost a 10-round decision to Luis Resto in New York's Madison Square Garden just six days earlier, improved his record to 23-2. Ortiz is now 35-13.

Journeyman light heavyweight Ned Hallacy, Pat's older brother, TKO'd Frankie Evans, Port Arthur, Texas, after six. Ned is now 32-5-2. Evans slipped to 30-9.

In the most exciting fight of the evening, welterweight Bruce Strauss, the "Jewish Bomber" from Omaha, Nebraska," survived three knockdowns to stop Tim Mulhurn, Des Moines, Iowa, in the fourth round.

Strauss, always a crowd pleaser, was down once in the sec-

ond and twice in the third. He dropped Mulhurn in the third, and TKO'd the hard hitting Iowan in the next round. Strauss is now 19-3-1.

Wichita middleweight Glenn Redpath and Don Masterson of Tulsa fought bell-to-bell in one of the most action packed fights ever seen in Wichita. Redpath ran his record to 2-0 in winning a split decision in the fast and furious four-rounder.

In other preliminary action, Wichita featherweight Jerry Magdalene made his pro debut by stopping Phillip Osby, Kansas City, at 2:15 of the first round; Wichita middleweight O'Dell Willis knocked out Jim Reed, Tulsa, in 0:17 of the first. Willis is now 2-0.

BOB SURBER

KENTUCKY

▲ OWENSBORO — Sportscenter — The "Seymour Cyclone," Floyd Saunders, 168, Seymour, Indiana, stopped George (KO) Madison, 161, Evansville, Indiana, in four. This wild swinging fracas, scheduled for eight rounds, had the fans standing and cheering on several occasions.

Larry McCall, 149, Cincinnati, Ohio, won an eight-round decision over Frankie Mills, 150, Liberty, Indiana. The decision was met with mixed reaction by the fans. This was a close, action-packed match, appreciated by all in attendance.

Southpaw Bob Coolidge, 159, Foley, Minnesota, TKO'd Jim Cook, Memphis, in three. Coolidge looked sharp, hitting the bearded Cook at will. The bout was scheduled for six.

Middleweight Ken Heflin, Louisville, won a six-round decision over game Gary "Cobra" Thomas, Evansville, in a hard fought battle.

In two heavyweight four rounders: Baker "Bear" Tinsley, Louisville, finished off Jim Higginson, Evansville, in one; and Robert Thomas, Memphis, kayoed Tony Cook, Evansville, in two.

This first-ever pro boxing show in this Ohio River city attracted 859 spectators who paid about $6,500. They saw an action-packed card of six bouts put together by matchmaker Pete Susens and promoted by Steve Canton and Shellie Lequire.

GARY L. MERRITT

MARYLAND

▲ BALTIMORE — Civic Center — An estimated crowd of 1,100 turned out for a six-bout card totalling 33 scheduled rounds of boxing.

With a $12 ringside, the promotional team of Vince Cala and Dr. Robert Sussman topped their fifth show of the year with a 10-rounder featuring up-and-coming local featherweight Derrick Holmes against Leo Lopez, Bronx, N.Y. Holmes put on a virtuoso boxing performance to win an easy decision, but the bout was hardly popular with the fans, as the visitor seldom landed a solid punch. While the bout may have lacked a certain spark, it did show Holmes at his masterful best. The 24-year-old New Carrollton, Md. product had an extensive amateur career of some 139 bouts, of which he won all but 10. As a pro, he's 10-0-1. He also holds a 1975 amateur kayo over present world junior featherweight champ Wilfredo Gomez. Holmes, who weighed 123 against the shorter Lopez's 128, will get his first acid test shortly, when he takes on Leo Cruz at the Starplex.

Action on the undercard was livelier. Four of the five bouts ended in knockouts.

In a semi-windup middleweight go, scheduled, oddly, for five rounds, rugged O'Dell Leonard, Palmer Park, savaged Giovanni Bovenzi, Vineland, N.J., to win by kayo at 1:05 of the first. The bout caused some controversy because Leonard landed his final punch — a thundering right to the head — while the visitor was crouched, although not fully down. Despite its bad appearance, Leonard's action was fully within the rules, and the knockout was allowed to stand.

A scheduled six-round light heavyweight battle immediately preceding the Leonard bout also provided fireworks. For the first minute and a half, previously unbeaten Robert McFarland, 175, Memphis, roughed up Bill Tuttle, 176, Bowie, Md., with a strong jab and thumping rights. But then valor got the better of ring wisdom, and McFarland, four inches taller than his foe, waded in with his hands down. The stocky Tuttle then unloaded a six-inch straight right to the button, and McFarland began a slow motion backwards march to the far corner, where he sank down in disbelief and took an eight-count. The pair then waged a mini-war for the next 30 seconds or so, but body punches and another straight right sent McFarland through the ropes where he was counted out at 2:58. Tuttle is now 4-0; McFarland 5-1.

In a fast four-rounder, Bud Becker, 157¼, Wilmington, took a pasting from Bill Harrington, 160¼, Baltimore, in the early going, but came on gradually, and flattened his tormentor in the final frame with a picture left hook to take a draw. Cliff Haywood, 131¼, Alexandria, had too much strength and skill for Lou Barber, 135, Baltimore, and took an easy four-round decision. In an opening four, Jeff Passero, Mitchellville, Md., improved on an earlier decision win when he stopped Van Tate, Norfolk, at 1:35 of the third, welterweights.

ED SCULLEN

MISSOURI

▲ KANSAS CITY — Municipal Auditorium — Promoter Peton Sher drew 2,708 fans here as he attempted to develop Steve Homan and Ivy Brown into attractions to replace his former drawing card, Tony Chiaverini.

Steve "The Hammer" Homan scored his seventh straight victory as he easily defeated Johnny Summerhays on a unanimous 10-round decision.

"Poison" Ivy Brown scored a majority decision over the other fighting Summerhays brother, Gary, in a 10-round light heavyweight bout. The Summerhays brothers are from Brantford, Ontario.

The southpaw Homan outboxed the aggressive Summerhays to easily defeat him in their lightweight bout The crude swinging Canadian never could catch up to Homan. The three judges all had Homan winning easily with scores of 100-91, 99-93, and 99-93. Homan is now 16-2 as a pro.

Brown punched in flurries to edge out Gary Summerhays in a very close bout. Two judges saw Brown the winner; the third judge scored the fight a draw. Summerhays thought he was the victim of a "hometown decision." Brown is now 19-7 as a pro.

Charlie Peterson, Muncie, Indiana, handed Kansas City welterweight Danny Campbell his first professional loss, stopping him in the third round.

The 23-year-old Campbell was leading up to the time of the stoppage. Campbell's right knee had buckled, sending him to the canvas. Danny regained his feet, but was unable to put pressure on his right knee after that. Campbell is now 4-1 as a pro.

Southpaw Tyrone Wren, Kansas City, won an easy six-round unanimous decision over Frankie Mills, Liberty, Indiana, in a welterweight bout. Wren is now 13-6 as a pro.

Another Kansas City prospect, Larry "Mousey" Martin, saw his bout cancelled when he was unable to make the contract weight of 154. Martin, who weighed 155½, saw Curtis Taylor of Memphis refuse to fight him, and the scheduled eight-rounder did not go on. The hard-punching Martin, 28 years old, is 2-0 as a professional.

RON COPHER

▲ KANSAS CITY — Municipal Auditorium — Tony Chiaverini won the United States Boxing Association junior middleweight title with a first round knockout over veteran Joey Vincent, Orlando, Florida.

A partisan crowd of 5,677 brought their local hero out of his dressing room with their familiar chant: "Ton-ee! Ton-ee! Ton-ee!"

A quarter of an hour passed before the former Washburn University linebacker could reach the ring, flanked by one of boxing's finest, newly enlisted manager Angelo Dundee.

"Jump on him quick, Tony. We got to get him early. You gotta be red hot!" The master Dundee prepped his young protege with anything but caution and patience before the fight.

"You're not going to start out slow with a guy of his record — with 25 early knockouts," Chiaverini said. "If you go in cold against a guy like Vincent, you're in trouble."

Tony didn't go in slow. Two bombing left hooks sent Vincent to the canvas, where he was counted out at 2:35 of the first round.

Al "Earthquake" Carter stopped Fred Harris, seven, lightweights. Gary Koates outpointed Justice Ortiz, eight, welters. Joe Sosa and Charlie Evans drew, six, lightweights. Rockie Mack outpointed Odell Willis, four, middleweights.

DOUG BEHRENS

NEBRASKA

▲ OMAHA — It was a dark day here, as Omaha's crack junior welter, Dale Hernandez, dropped a 10-round verdict to rated contender Lennox Blackmoore, 140, Georgetown, Guyana.

It was decided that Dale, now 34-3, was ready for a world class fighter like Blackmoore, 21-1. Lennox, unfortunately, had other ideas, and proceeded to demonstrate a superior mastery of boxing. Making good use of his height and reach advantages, Blackmoore had Dale's face a mask of crimson by the half-way mark.

Undaunted by the terrific pounding he was absorbing, Hernandez kept boring in, looking to land a desperately needed kayo punch. Though stunned momentarily at one point, the invader's fleetness of foot kept him out of harm's way. Determination and courage of the highest order weren't enough, as Hernandez lost for the first time ever in an Omaha ring. Blackmoore is a superb craftsman, and well deserving of his world rating.

Comebacking Morris Jackson, 227, Omaha, showed flashes of his old power as he TKO'd Grady Daniels, 209, Sterling, Ill., three. Bob Coolidge, 1, Minneapolis, Minn., kayoed Jim Hearn, 161, Omaha, four. Rick Folstad, 140, Minneapolis, barely managed to eke out a split decision over tenacious Tom Crowley, 187, Tipton, Iowa, eight. Undefeated Lupe Guera, 200, Council Bluffs, Iowa, racked up another win, a unanimous decision over muscled L.J. Harvey, 206, St. Louis, six. High hopes are on Guera, already tabbed by some as the "new Willie Pastrano."

ROBERT J. RUIZ

NEW JERSEY

▲ TOTOWA — Ice World — New Jersey welterweight champion Nino Gonzalez, 152, notched another spectacular win, stopping tough Tommy Sacco, 156, Pittsburgh, Pa., at 0:58 of the second round. Nino, now fighting as a junior middleweight, outboxed and outslugged Tommy, dropping him before the ref halted the bout. Gonzalez is still undefeated after 12 fights.

Brevity was the theme of the evening. Rocky Lockridge, 126, Wayne, N.J., stopped Jose "Cheo" Ortiz, 125, New York, N.Y., at 1:32 of round two. Lockridge floored Ortiz, who was hopelessly outclassed, once before the fight was stopped. Rocky, the featherweight champion of New Jersey, is now undefeated in nine fights, having scored seven kayoes.

Curtis Harris, 140¾, Paterson, N.J., knocked out Ed Rivera, 135, Boston, Mass., in 1:36 of the first. Tommy Merola, 156¼, Newark, N.J., stopped Ralph Dumont, 160, Boston, Mass., at 2:14 of round one. Bobby Patterson, 161, Paterson, N.J., stopped Kevin Smith, 160, Newark, N.J., at 2:30 of the first.

Two four-rounders went the distance. Derrik Cutino, 136, Paterson, N.J., won a close one over Jesus Vasquez, 144, Newark, N.J. Mike Ruiz, 207, Paterson, excited the crowd by winning a split decision over Sugar Carter, 202, Hackensack, N.J. Ruiz outweighed Carter, but he gave away eight inches in height.

The bouts were attended by around 1,700 fans who paid approximately $17,000 — a fine promotion by Dan Duva. Some of those in attendance were New Jersey Boxing Commissioner Jersey Joe Walcott, Frank Stallone, Reggie Jones, Ramon Ranquello, and Guy "The Rock" Casale.

S. MARTIN FELDMAN

UNITED STATES RATINGS

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion: Mike Weaver (Calif.)
1. Earnie Shavers (Ohio)
2. Leroy Jones (Colo.)
3. Scott LeDoux (Minn.)
4. Gerry Cooney (N.Y.)
5. Leon Spinks (Mo.)
6. Ron Lyle (Colo.)
7. Ossie Ocasio (P.R.)
8. Michael Dokes (Ohio)
9. Willie Shannon (Ore.)
10. Pinklon Thomas (Mich.)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion: James Scott (N.J.)
1. Yaqui Lopez (Calif.)
2. Eddie Gregory (N.Y.)
3. Mike Rossman (N.J.)
4. Marvin Camel (Mont.)
5. Ramon Ranquello (N.J.)
6. Carlos DeLeon (P.R.)
7. Jerry Martin (Pa.)
8. Michael Spinks (Mo.)
9. Jesse Burnett (Calif.)
10. Paul Ramos (Ohio)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion: Marvin Hagler (Mass.)
1. Ronnie Harris (Ohio)
2. Curtis Parker (Pa.)
3. Mike Colbert (Ore.)
4. David Love (Calif.)
5. Dwight Davison (Mich.)
6. Wilford Scypion (Texas)
7. Ray Seales (Wash.)
8. Roger Leonard (Md.)
9. Bennie Briscoe (Pa.)
10. Sammy NeSmith (Ind.)

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion: Nick Ortiz (P.R.)
1. Tony Chiaverini (Mo.)
2. Rocky Mosley Jr. (Nev.)
3. Nino Gonzalez (N.J.)
4. Johnny Sullivan (Ore.)
5. Jerry Cheatham (Ariz.)
6. Alvin Anderson (Md.)
7. Wilson Bell (Mich.)
8. Freddie Johnson (La.)
9. Steve Delgado (Calif.)
10. Zeferino Gonzalez (Calif.)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion: Title Vacant
1. Wilfred Benitez (P.R.)
2. Thomas Hearns (Mich.)
3. Pete Ranzany (Calif.)
4. Angel Espada (P.R.)
5. Randy Shields (Calif.)
6. Manuel Jiminez (P.R.)
7. Adolfo Viruet (Calif.)
8. Domingo Ayala (P.R.)
9. Santiago Valdez (Ind.)
10. Johnny Turner (N.Y.)

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion: Title Vacant
1. Saoul Mamby (N.Y.)
2. Esteban DeJesus (P.R.)
3. Bruce Curry (Texas)
4. Larry Stanton (N.Y.)
5. Sammy Ayala (Texas)
6. Willie Rodriguez (Pa.)
7. Ruby Ortiz (N.Y.)
8. Sean Mannion (Mass.)
9. Tony Petronelli (Mass.)
10. Jimmy Corkum (Mass.)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion: Title Vacant
1. Johnny Lira (Ill.)
2. Howard Davis Jr. (N.Y.)
3. Aaron Pryor (Ohio)
4. Hilmer Kenty (Mich.)
5. Jorge Morales (P.R.)
6. Edwin Viruet (P.R.)
7. Andrew Ganigan (Hawaii)
8. Herman Montes (Calif.)
9. Reynaldo Zaragoza (Calif.)
10. Gonzello Montellano (Calif.)

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion: Title Vacant
1. Frankie Baltazar (Calif.)
2. Bobby Chacon (Calif.)
3. Greg Coverson (Mich.)
4. Robert Elizondo (Texas)
5. Arturo Leon (Ariz.)
6. Ernest Bing (N.J.)
7. Jerome Artis (Pa.)
8. Luke Ervin (N.J.)
9. Alex Alatore (Calif.)
10. Roy Hernandez (Texas)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion: Reuben Castillo (Calif.)
1. Mike Ayala (Texas)
2. Rocky Lockridge (N.J.)
3. Gerald Hayes (N.J.)
4. Abdul Bey (Hawaii)
5. Fel Clemente (Calif.)
6. Warren Matthews (La.)
7. Alberto Collazo (Pa.)
8. Carmelo Negron (N.Y.)
9. Juan LaPorte (N.Y.)
10. Jose Nieto (N.Y.)

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion: Nicky Perez (Ariz.)
1. Juan (Kid) Meza (Calif.)
2. Javier Flores (Utah)
3. David Ramalho (Mass.)
4. William Berry (N.J.)
5. Earl Large (Ariz.)
6. Derrick Holmes (Va.)
7. Cookie Valencia (Utah)
8. Melvin Johnson (Calif.)
9. Jaime Garza (Texas)
10. Alfonso Evans (Pa.)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion: Title Vacant
1. Alberto Davila (Calif.)
2. Leo Randolph (Wash.)
3. Oscar Muniz (Calif.)
4. Eddie Logan (Calif.)
5. Jeff Chandler (Pa.)
6. Julian Solis (P.R.)
7. Alberto Sandoval (Calif.)
8. Andres Hernandez (P.R.)
9. Andres Torres (P.R.)
10. David Capo (N.Y.)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champion: Title Vacant
1. Joey Olivo (Calif.)
2. Orlando Maldonado (P.R.)
3. Willie Jensen (Nev.)
4. Mike Stuart (Calif.)
5. Fred Jackson (Tenn.)
6. Adelaido Galindo (Texas)
7. Jose Ortiz (P.R.)
8. Mario Chavez (Calif.)
9. Arturo Tebaqui (Ariz.)
10. Javier Mendoza (Calif.)

Larry Holmes (Pa.), WBC heavyweight champion; John Tate (Tenn.), WBA heavyweight champion; Matthew Saad Muhammad (Pa.), world light heavyweight champion; Marvin Johnson (Ind.), WBA light heavyweight champion; Ray Leonard (Md.), world welterweight champion; Samuel Serrano (P.R.), world junior lightweight champion; Danny Lopez (Calif.), world featherweight champion; Wilfredo Gomez (P.R.), world junior featherweight champion.

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NEW YORK

▲ NEW YORK CITY — Madison Square Garden — Gerry Cooney, the much-ballyhooed behemoth of Dennis Rappaport and Mike Jones, appears to be "for real." Cooney, 222, Huntington, N.Y., turned a lot of scoffers into ministers of the Gospel According to Saints Dennis and Mike when he destroyed John (Dino) Denis, 214½, Attleboro, Mass., in 1:14 of the third round in a scheduled 10-round "grudge match."

Denis, who is managed by Al Braverman, claimed that Cooney had tried to "steal his pride" in a sparring session at Gleason's Gym awhile back. "I hate him. This is no joke to sell tickets. If I had my way, I'd punch him out in the street."

It doesn't look as if too many men will punch out Gerry Cooney — anyplace. Gerry, all 6'5" of him, took command in the second when he landed two left hooks. Then, he was all over Denis, pounding him on the ropes. Dino was wobbly, and a left hook to the temple had him on the verge of a kayo. Some Cooney uppercuts turned his face into a blood mask, but Denis refused to fall. He even threw a right to Gerry's jaw. It landed, but big Cooney didn't even blink.

The third round was the climax. Few expected Denis to get through the session, and he didn't. He charged Cooney and attacked his body — no effect. A Cooney left hook (When Gerry dies, his left arm should be cut off him and stuffed) to the jaw sent John down — hard. He got up, but ref Tony Perez mercifully called a halt.

Gerry's next affair will be with Leroy Boone. After that, he'll probably take on the winner of Mike Weaver-Scott LeDoux. He should beat either one of them.

Cooney's record is now 21-0 (17 kayoes) and climbing. Denis is 35-3-1.

In the co-featured 10, Esteban DeJesus, 140, won a unanimous decision over Ruby "The Snake" Ortiz, 141¼. This one was a case of "class." DeJesus, the former WBC lightweight king, used his left hook well, and ripped Ortiz's head on numerous occasions. Ruby, a usually effective, if somewhat awkward, fighter, didn't win the unanimous nod of all three officials in any round. Referee Vincent Rainone scored the bout 7-2-1; he gave Ruby the fourth and seventh rounds and called the sixth frame even. Judge Artie Aidala had it 9-1, giving the fifth canto to The Snake. Judge John Maschio saw it 8-1-1, with the fourth round for Ortiz and the fifth frame even.

DeJesus, who is hoping for a shot at the winner of the Sang-Hyun Kim-Saoul Mamby WBC junior welterweight title bout, upped his record to 56-4 with 31 knockouts. Ortiz is now 20-4-3 with seven kayoes.

Another scheduled 10-rounder saw local favorite John LoCicero, 161, TKO former European junior middleweight champion Gilbert Cohen, 158, Paris, France, at 1:26 of the second. This one was pathetic. Cohen, a transplanted Israeli with a paunch, went down from an overhand right in the first round. He got up, and a left-right combo sent him down again. Gilbert made it to his feet at eight and the bell saved him. In the second round, a right hand put him down for a nine-count. When he got up, he thought, apparently, that he was back in Paris and wanted to take a stroll along the *Rue de Rivoli*. Cohen was stumbling across the ring when referee Luis Rivera called a halt.

LoCicero, a good club fighter, is now 14-3 with 10 knockouts. Cohen, who had lost his EBU crown when Marijan Benes knocked him out in the fourth round on St. Patrick's Day in Banja Luka, falls to 20-4 with 10 kayoes.

Lee Canalito, 245½, Houston, Texas, was too big and strong for Dennis Jordan, 211, Hartford, Conn., in a scheduled eight-rounder, and referee Perez stopped the bout at 1:33 of the fourth round. Canalito, who is managed by Angelo Dundee, has won all eight of his fights by kayo. Jordan is 13-8 with 10 knockouts.

There were four scheduled four-rounders. Hilton Cohen, 147, New York, who had scored a first round kayo over Robert Taylor in his pro debut in Commack on October 19, TKO'd one Jack Cowell, 142, Bridgeport, Conn., at 2:22 of the fourth round. Ron Huston, 175½, Weehawken, N.J., knocked out Gene Moodrow, 173, Jersey City, in 2:32 of the first. Huston, a two-time New York Golden Gloves champ, is now 4-0, all knockouts, as a pro. Moodrow is 1-6 with one kayo. Martin Parham, 136, the 1979 New York GG 135-pound champ, won a unanimous decision over Jose Rosado, 134½, Jersey City. Parham, a southpaw, is now 4-0 in the pro ranks with one kayo. Phil Capobianco, 174, New York, won a unanimous decision over Jose Serrano, 172½, New York, in a sloppy chaser. Capobianco had won all three of his previous pro bouts with first round kayoes. Serrano was making his pro debut.

Paid attendance — 7,368. Gross — $114,835.02.

▲ NEW YORK CITY — Felt Forum — Tragedy was the headliner in the 10-round bout between Wilford Scypion and Willie Classen.

In the first bout of the evening, Mark Medal, 150½, Jersey City, gave Pat Esposito, 157, New York, a rough time. He rocked him with some good shots and then got him near the ropes. The round was almost over, and Esposito, making his pro debut, was not in any physical danger, although Mark was trying hard to land a knockout blow. Just before the bell, Lew Eskin, the third man, jumped between the fighters and "rescued" Esposito. Pat was led from the ropes and, the bell having sounded, the round girl started carrying her "2" card 'round the ring, refusing, I guess, to believe that Eskin had stopped the fight. Well, "safety first" has always been Lew's motto. Right?

Eskin had another job that evening — the fight between Wilford Scypion, 156, Port Arthur, Texas, and Willie "El Macho" Classen, 159, born in Santurce, Puerto Rico but fighting out of New York City.

Classen, who had given future world middleweight champion Vito Antuofermo a rough battle in the Garden on August 25, 1978, had gone downhill, being kayoed by John LoCicero in the Forum on April 6, 1979 and by Tony Sibson in London on October 9. (Willie claimed he'd had double vision at the beginning of the second (and last) round of the Sibson fight.) Scypion, a rising star, had won his first 12 fights by knockouts.

"Macho" looked okay in the first round, but Wilford came on in the second and decked him with a right hand in the third. Classen got up, but Scypion worked him over in the corner and landed two more good rights before the round's end.

Classen's two best rounds were the sixth and seventh, when

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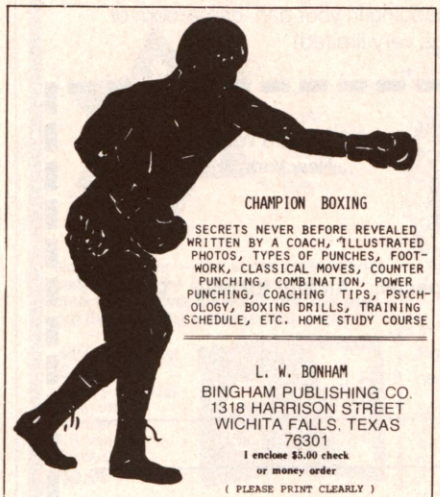

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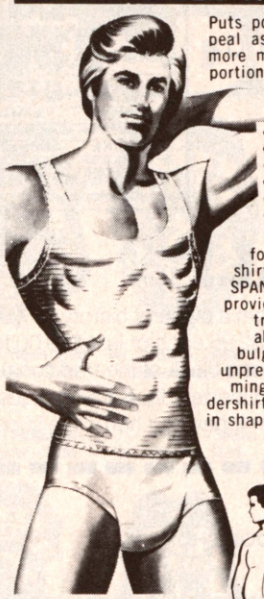

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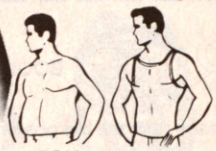

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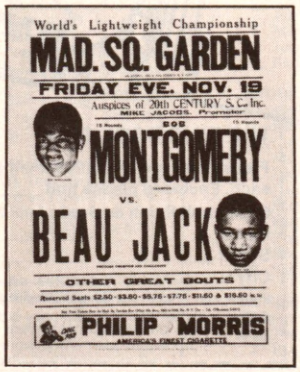

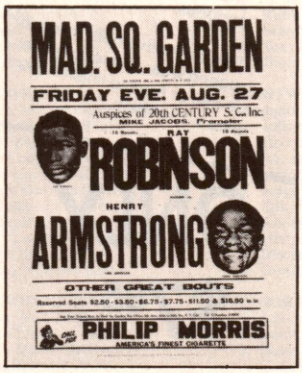

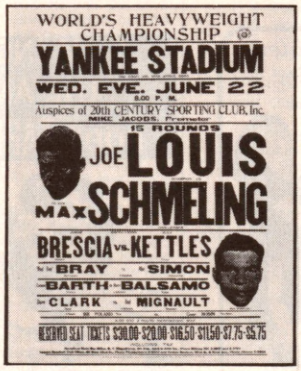

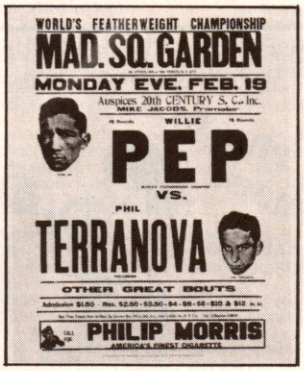

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he stunned Scypion, who seemed to tire. In the eighth, however, Wilford came alive again. Then came the ninth.

Wilford nailed Willie with an overhand right, then forced hm to a corner and bombarded him with body shots. Classen took a beating, but then fought his way out.

Scypion attacked again — this time to the head. Classen was wobbly and some in the crowd shouted to ref Eskin: "Stop it."

Eskin didn't "stop it," but he did give Willie a "standing eight-count. The standing eight-count, however, is not in the New York rule book; it's illegal. By imposing it, instead of stopping the fight and declaring a TKO, Eskin was, in large measure, responsible for what occurred. (Eskin later claimed it wasn't a standing eight-count; that Classen's butt had touched the bottom rope — a legal knockdown. But an examination of the bout film showed Classen on the *second* rope from the bottom only. That is not a legal knockdown.)

At the end of the ninth round, Classen went back to his corner in bad shape. Two commission doctors, Richard Izquierdo and Roger Warner, went to check his condition. Dr. Izquierdo, the senior of the two, asked Classen if he was okay and Willie, "macho" to the end, said yes. Dr. Izquierdo, who knew Classen, also asked him questions in Spanish, and Willie was coherent. This, of course, meant he was all right to fight.

When the bell rang, Eskin was in Classen's corner, talking to Izquierdo, and Willie was still on his stool Scypion got set to attack, but Lew waved him back. Then Classen made it up, and the fight, as such, continued.

But not for long. A crunching right, and then another, knocked him over the ropes and O-U-T. Referee Eskin waved his arms, and Scypion had scored his knockout "number 13," something his supporters had been screaming for since the beginning of the fight.

But number 13 was unlucky. Classen, on the apron, did not stir. When he failed to revive — with medical attention — after two minutes, a lot of us at ringside got upset.

After seven minutes, they brought a stretcher. By now, Classen had lapsed into unconsciousness. I saw his face as he was carried out. He was still alive then, clinically.

They rushed him to Bellevue Hospital where, after a two-hour operation performed by Dr. Jack Dunne, the hospital's chief of neurology, Willie Classen, age 29, was placed on the critical list.

In the meantime, two more tens went on at the Felt Forum. Former New Jersey featherweight champion Gerald Hayes, 125½, came out winging, and surprised the hitherto unbeaten Jose Nieto, 125, New York, knocking him out of the ring with a sensational attack. Nieto failed to get back into the ring in time, and ref Joe Cortez counted him out at 0:48 of the first round. For Hayes, who had lost his N.J. crown to Rocky Lockridge in his last fight, it is a great comeback. For Nieto, it's back to the drawing board.

The last fight of the evening saw Enrique Solis, 125, Puerto Rico, out-cute, outspeed, and outsmart Mike Ayala, 124½, San Antonio, Texas, giving him a bloody nose, knocking him down in the first round, and hitting him with plenty of good combos in the rounds that followed. But Ayala, who gave Danny Lopez a hard battle in a title fight, got the decision. Referee Johnny LoBianco scored it 7-3, Ayala, and judge Joseph Bruno had it for for Mike, 6-3-1. Eva Shane scored it 5-5 in rounds and 6-5 for Solis in the point score, giving Solis two points for the first round. I had it 5-4-1 for Solis. The crowd booed the beejesus out of this one, but everything was safe until Jack Brami asked Enrique to leave the ring. Solis, burning, tried to go for Jack, and the crowd, started throwing bottles. That was the end of the program.

Before the Solis-Ayala fight, the Forum celebrated "Chuck Wepner Night." Wepner, who recently retired from the ring, was given a lifetime pass to boxing events at M.S.G. by John Pascale. Joe O'Day of the *News* presented Chuck with an original Bill Gallo cartoon of himself, which had appeared in the paper a few days earlier. Also on hand were Tom Kenville, Al Braverman (Chuck's manager), Gil Clancy and Jerry Izenberg, who said that Chuck was "one of our own." He also said that "Chuck Wepner was a fighter." Truer words were never spoken, with or without rabbit punches.

There was also an eight-rounder on the card. Busy Manuel Melon, 158½, New York based Puerto Rican, a southpaw, won unanimous decision over taller Carlos Betancourt, 159, Trujillo Alto, P.R., eight. Referee Joe Cortez scored it 6-1-1; judge Joe Bruno had it 7-1; and judge Eva Shane had it 4-3-1.

Willie Classen spent the next five days in a coma. He died at 7:47 pm, November 28, 1979, 17 days before what would have been his 29th birthday. HERBERT G. GOLDMAN

▲ STATEN ISLAND — St. George Theatre — John "The Heat" Verderosa made it four straight victories as a professional when he stopped previously unbeated Ed "Twist" Welcome at 1:35 of the fourth round.

Verderosa, 132, Staten Island, whose boyish looks and outgoing personality mask the savage fighter within, took command from the opening bell against Welcome, a former Albany, New York, Golden Gloves champion. Constant pressure and a barrage of body shots took their toll on Welcome, 128, who was hurt in the second and third rounds, but skillfully was able to maneuver out of trouble. Finally, after taking some solid shots in the fourth round, Welcome was given the rest of the evening off by the referee.

Former *Ring* "New Face" Louis Hubela, 137, Brooklyn, New York, went to 16-0 when his jolting body punches forced Newark, New Jersey's Reggie James, 138, to remain on his stool after the second round. Tony Santana, 130, Brooklyn, halted Felix Matos, 133, Newark, in round three. Brooklyn's Mike Duffy, 155, easily decisioned John Saxton, 157, Newark, four. In the last bout of the evening, Hubert Jackson, 147, Newark, halted Larry Farmer, 150, another Newark lad, in the seccond round.

Promoter — Nancy Sciacca, Matchmaker — Johnny Bos.
Attendance — 600. Gross — $6,000. J.T. GREENROSE

▲ STATEN ISLAND — St. George Theatre — John Verderosa, 131, Staten Island, won his fifth straight bout in the pro ranks, taking a unanimous decision over Tomas Diaz, 133½, Dominican Republic, in the six-round main event.

Diaz, who first tried slugging, then showboating, and then hitting after the bell in every round, was never able to make Verderosa lose his cool. John had kayoed his first four opponents, so Diaz took pleasure in lasting the distance. Verderosa,

once he saw Diaz was going to last, set a reasonable pace and won.

The semi-final six saw Eddie Campbell, 144, Brooklyn, kayo Victor Mangual, 140½, Dominican Republic, in 1:16 of the sixth round. A perfect left hook did the trick.

Rocky Ortiz, 135½, Puerto Rico, outscored Jorge Nina, 130, Passaic, N.J., four. Kevin Rooney, 146½, Staten Island, TKO'd Heriberto Vasquez, 151½, Ponce, Puerto Rico, in the first round. Referee Paul Venti stopped the bout at 2:59 of the session. It was Rooney's second bout as a professional. Trevor Evelyn, 138, Barbados, won unanimous decision over Orlando Santiago, 139, Puerto Rico. Billy Gray, 175½, Staten Island, TKO'd Curtis Richardson, 175, Newark, at 1:43 of the fourth and last round.

Paid attendance — 502. Gross — $5,600.

CHARLES D. BROWN

OREGON

▲ PORTLAND — Jantzen Beach Auditorium — Curtis Ramsey, 143, Portland, won a unanimous decision over Eddie Nuno, 144, La Puente, Calif., in the 10-round main event. Ramsey swept the last four rounds to gain a popular decision.

Daryl Penn, 149, Portland, scored a fifth round TKO over Rudy Barro, 153, Stockton, Calif. Penn landed repeatedly with combination punches in the semi-final bout, also scheduled for 10 rounds.

James Williams, 160, Portland, stopped Ralph Gidley, 150, Everett, Wash., at 1:39 of the second round. Joe Banks, 164, Portland, knocked out Hudson Jackson, 161½, Seattle in 1:40 of the first.

RUGGLES LARSON

PENNSYLVANIA

▲ PHILADELPHIA — Spectrum — Cagey California vet Jesse Burnett almost succeeded in his role as matador against Philly's Jerry "The Bull" Martin until he was gored in the last round and dropped an unpopular split decision over 12 rounds. The interesting, if not thrilling, contest was for Martin's North American Boxing Federation light heavyweight title and also the vacant United States Boxing Association belt.

"I knew I wasn't going to win unless I knocked him out," said Burnett. "It's his hometown, not mine." Never-the-less, the local fans let their displeasure be known when the official decision was announced. Burnett may not have got the call, or an ear or tail for that matter, but he did receive the cheers of the crowd for his creaky imitation of an aging Dominguin.

Martin's normal fight is to move inside and bang the body until his adversary weakens and the head becomes available as a target. This he could not do against Burnett because the foxey old campaigner tied him up and forced the fight to long range.

From time to time, Martin, 175, scored well with his left jab but it was Burnett who produced the notable blows. Clean rights caught Jerry in the third, fourth and seventh rounds, while Martin's greater work rate kept him in the fight.

A swelling developed under Martin's left eye in the seventh and the Philadelphian claimed a well-placed thumb had done the damage. This led to an angry exchange of words between the boxers that forced referee Joe O'Neil to issue a stern warning to both.

Burnett, 174, came out lefty in the eighth and smacked Martin in the wounded eye with a hard right that brought blood from the rapidly closing optic.

"He kept popping at my eye and it scared me to death," admitted Martin." At the end, I just kept it closed because it was putting the other eye out of focus."

Martin, 25, rallied in the next two sessions, plugging away with his jab and bringing over several solid rights to Burnett's head. Jesse seemed to be looking for an opening for his big bomb but layed back and did little punching.

A potent left hook sagged Martin into the ropes in the eleventh and Burnett, 33, jumped to the attack with more vigor than he had shown all night. Martin survived, setting up a dramatic finish the next round.

Martin finally reached Burnett with a right that landed flush on the chin and turned Jesse's legs to jelly. Burnett was in dire trouble and he grabbed Jerry around the waist and pulled him to the canvas. Both fighters scrambled to their feet and the final bell sounded before "The Bull" could follow up.

Judge John Stewart gave the match to Burnett 115-114, but judge Eddie Woods and referee O'Neil went for Martin, 117-115 and 115-113, respectively. Your correspondent scored it a 115-115 stalemate.

"The gods were with us," said Martin's manager-trainer, Leon Tabbs.

Undefeated local middleweight Curtis Parker scored a fifth round TKO over game Gary "Iceman" Guiden in an exciting, five knockdown performance.

Guiden, Muncie, Indiana, was a late sub for David Love, who pulled out five days prior to the bout with a bad back. Although he was thoroughly beaten, Guiden punched back with fierce combos between trips to the floor.

A savage left hook to the belly dropped Guiden in the second for a nine-count. Shortly after he arose, another body shot put him down once more, this time for eight.

Guiden, 158, roared back in the third, opening a gash over Parker's eye and rocking the Philadelphian with a sharp right to the face.

"The cut was from a butt and the shakiness from a punch," said Parker after the fight.

Parker, 160, shrugged off the effects and continued his explosive attack in the fourth, winging home punches at a rapid pace. Then, in the fifth, he almost ripped Guiden's head off.

An overhand right followed by a left hook spilled Guiden for the first of three knockdowns. The second count was a standing one after another right had hurt Gary along the ropes. Still another right put Guiden over and out at 2:55 of the fifth round. It had been scheduled for 10.

The victory was number 15 for Parker and his 13th kayo. He hopes that the impressive showing will attract an offer to appear on national television.

"Irish" Ted Mann scored a split 10-round decision over Tony Tassone in a boring middleweight match that should be forgotten as quickly as possible.

Mann, Forked River, N.J., tried to make a fight out of it, but

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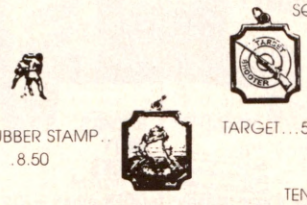
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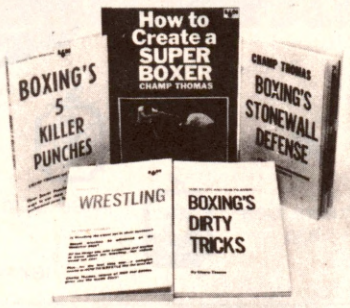

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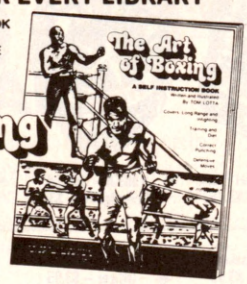

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was foiled by Tassone's constant mauling. Ted was no ball of fire himself and Tassone managed a rally of sorts in the late rounds to make it close.

Tassone, 166, received one vote of 48-45, while Mann, 163, garnered the other two scores of 48-46 and 48-44

Upper Darby slugger Victor Pappa, 140½, scored an unbelievable come-from behind knockout over Allentown's Alseneo Green, 140, in the evening's best fight.

Green teed-off on Victor's head in the first round and scored repeatedly with crashing rights. He continued to punch holes in Pappa's porous defense and dropped him hard with a right-left combo in n the third.

A left hook to the gut put Pappa down again in the fourth and he just barely beat the count and hung on until the bell.

Green foolishly started to showboat and Pappa began to come back into the fight. A hard right put Green down near the end of the sixth and the crowd went wild.

Pappa rushed from his corner at the start of the seventh and nailed Green with a vicious right that sent him into dreamland. Time of the knockout was 0:37. It was a great fight and more than worthy of a rematch.

In the show opener, Mike Ross ended the unbeaten run of Ron Aurit, the fighting school teacher.

Aurit, 135½, came complete with a contingent of high school cheer leaders, but was outclassed by the rugged Ross, 137½, North Philly. Ross drove strong punches into Aurit's face and body. The mismatch was halted at 2:20 of the sixth. It could have been stopped way before that.

Lefty Gary Hinton, 138½, edged rusty Jerry Graham, 141, to close the lengthy show. Both boxers are from Philly.

Paid attendance — 5,325.

▲ UPPER DARBY — Forum — Forgotten Philadelphia middleweight Bobby "Boogaloo" Watts returned to the ring after an eleven-month lay-off to score an easy third-round TKO over Clifford Wills.

Along with fellow Philadelphian Willie Monroe, Watts is one of two boxers to hold wins over Marvin Hagler and the only one not to have that victory avenged. In Wills, however, Watts faced a far lesser adversary than "Marvelous Marv".

Wills, 159, Cincinnati, absorbed a flashing left hook to the eye in the second and decided he'd had enough just ten seconds into the third. Watts came in at 158½.

"The right eye was puffing up from that really good shot he hit me with," said Wills. "I was seeing double."

Watts, at age 30, hopes to make one last drive at the title.

"I've been inactive, but I guess I still got it," said Watts. "My timing is still a little off, but the hands felt quick."

It will take much sterner stuff than Wills to determine if "Boogaloo" can still cut the mustard with the division's top guns.

In another scheduled ten, local Richie "The Bandit" Bennett ran his record to 20-2-2 (14 kayoes) with an eight-round TKO over "Dancing" Dan Synder.

Southpaw Snyder, 159, stayed away from the stronger Bennett in the early going, but never won a round. All he did was run and hold.

Bennett, 161, applied constant pressure and wore Snyder down, finally dropping him with a good right to the head in the eighth. Snyder beat the count but had little left and referee Tom Reed halted the one-sided match at 1:21.

The crisply-fought eight-round draw between Johnny Cooper and Kevin Howard stole the show.

Cooper, 146, Blackwood, N.J., decked Howard for a brief count in the first round, but Kevin didn't seem too hurt. From then on, both men took turns scoring with clean punches.

Howard, undefeated from Philly, jolted Cooper with solid rights that shook Johnny but never dropped him, while Cooper kept his talented left hand busy all night.

Howard, 151, wobbled Cooper late in the fight, but just couldn't finish him off. The draw decision pleased most of the fans and a rematch would be a natural.

In another action-packed prelim, local favorite Guy Gargan, 160, snuck home a points winner over Jimmie Sykes, also 160.

Sykes popped Gargan with a lot of heavy leather only to have Guy storm back eager for more. Just when it seemed like Sykes was on his way to a stoppage, Gargan would bull him into the ropes and hammer away to pull even.

A hard-fought match all the way with Sykes, Phila., looking a little unlucky not to have at least received a draw. Another good bet for a return go.

South Philly heavyweight Tim Witherspoon, 197, turned pro with an all too easy first-round TKO over Joey Adedaeds, 200. Witherspoon is one of Matthew Saad Muhammad's sparing partners and once gave Marvis Frazier a tough amateur fight, going the distance with "Smokin' Joe's" son.

Tony Mesoroca, 172, Phila., TKO'd Sonny Crooms, 173, Phila., in 1:22 of the third and Bob Rooney, 151, battled to a four-round draw with Xavier Biggs, 148, both from Philly.

The card was televised over the ESPN cable network and drew a paid attendance of 1,127.

NIGEL COLLINS

▲ ALLENTOWN — United States Boxing Association junior welterweight champion Willie (Fireball) Rodriguez, Allentown, racked up his 20th win in 25 pro fights with a second round knockout of veteran Willie Daniels before 1,000 fans in Dorney Park's Castle Garden.

Rodriguez had injured a tendon in his right hand during training the week before and then reinjured it in the first round against Daniels. However, Rodriguez used a devastating left hook to the jaw to put Daniels on his back and out at 2:10 of the second round. Daniels, a late sub for Al Hughes, hit the back of his head hard when he went down and never had a chance to regain his feet.

The Lehigh Athletic Club promotion was action packed from start to finish. Four of the six bouts failed to go the distance.

In the semi-windup, Bethlehem lightweight Angel Cruz knocked out Morris Grant, Philadelphia, in 2:17 of the first round. Grant was floored twice, once from a right to the body and again from a right cross to the head.

Allentown lightie Jose (Speedy) Gonzales pulled a big upset when he won a six-round unanimous verdict over previously unbeaten Charlie Brown of Philadelphia. Brown won the first two rounds, but after that it was all Gonzales, who made Charlie look bad. It was Brown's first loss after seven wins.

In the show stealer, Bethlehem bantamweight Angel Marrero stopped Jose Muniz of Philly at 2:54 of the sixth and final

round. Marrero floored Muniz four times, once in the third with two left hooks, once in the fourth with a straight right, once in the fifth with a left-right combination, and once in the sixth with a short, crisp right to the jaw.

Warminster, Pa. junior welter Scott Wolfertz made his pro debut with a third round kayo of Joey Giardello protege Kevin Renshaw of Cherry Hill, N.J. The end came when Wolfertz nailed the oncoming Renshaw with a left-right combo that put him on his back in 1:50.

Bethlehem lightweight Bobby Johnson made his pro debut a successful one with a four-round decision over Jose Morales of Philly. Johnson, a veteran of many amateur bouts, displayed considerable poise for his first time out. He scored well with left jabs and a good right hand lead.

JIM BUSS

TEXAS

▲ BEAUMONT — Civic Center — The third show promoted by World-Wide Promotions at this beautiful new arena was somewhat of a success artistically, but less than great at the gate. Only 1,100 fans showed up for the card, perhaps due to a week's postponement.

The co-features saw local favorites James "Bubba" Busceme and Wilford Scypion score resounding victories over a couple of toughs from south of the border. Scypion, 157, iced Manuel Torres, 160, in the second stanza of a scheduled 10-rounder. Senor Torres came out winging at the opening bell, and landed several hard blows to Scypion's body. But as soon as the local lad found the range with his potent left hook, it was curtains for Torres. Scypion has recently signed a contract with Mike Jones of New York. Jones will be co-manager of Wilford along with Howard Parham. Kenny Weldon will stay on as trainer of the vicious punching middleweight prospect.

Busceme halted Jose Cruz of Mexacali in the third round of a lightweight finale scheduled for 10. Cruz was the toughest foe yet for Bubba in his comeback efforts, but his heart was not enough to offset Busceme's far greater natural ability. Bubba's left hand was injured in this bout, and he will need a month or so to rest before resuming training.

The "semi-final" saw local Vernon Johnson, 212½ embalm Clarence Allen, 180, in the second round. The less said about this tiff, the better. The real action came after the bout, when Bruce Scott, an oft-defeated Port Arthur heavyweight, ran down the aisle and into the ring. Johnson had won a controversial split duke over Scott a few months back, and Scott wants a rematch. Scott began to challenge Vernon, at which time Johnston ran across the ring and slugged Scott. This led to general mayhem, which included "bouts" between several fans as well as a few troublemakers storming the ring. At the conclusion, Scott was led off in handcuffs by the arena security force and Johnston had his purse withheld by commissioner Henry Villagomez for striking a "spectator."

Four prelim bouts, all scheduled for six rounds, rounded out the card. Freddy Jackson, 118½, Houston, won unanimous decision over Silverio Martinez, 119, Monterray. Clyde "Chubby" Johnson, 136, Beaumont, TKO'd Roger Rogenkamp, 130½, in the first round. (Johnson was making his pro debut.) Veteran Tom Pinner, 146½, Newton, won a split decision over Jose Mireles, 147½, Mexico. Alfredo Rocha, 135, Houston, TKO'd Gualberto Ramira, 128, Mexico City, in the third.

C.A. JACKSON

UTAH

▲ SALT LAKE CITY — Fairgrounds Coliseum — More than 3,000 enthusiastic fans packed the Coliseum to watch Joe Silva's promotion of the long awaited match between two of Utah's more celebrated professional boxers: junior featherweights Javier Flores and Cookie Valencia.

Even the most optimistic fan could not have hoped for the battle this turned out to be: 12 rounds of non-stop action, with neither fighter gaining a clear edge in any round, except, perhaps for Flores in the 12th.

At the beginning of the 12th, Valencia had Flores on the verge of going down, but was then staggered himself and had to take a standing eight-count. This last minute rally by Flores may well have earned him the decision. Thus, Javier Flores became the new Rocky Mountain junior featherweight champion by the following scores: judge Del Flowler: draw; judge Del Markham, 113-110, Flores; judge Gibb Gillespie, 117-113, Flores.

At ringside, Gene Fullmer, former world middleweight champion and newly elected chairman of the Utah State Athletic Commission, said that this was one of the most exciting fights he'd ever seen — and that takes in a few. Those of us lucky enough to have seen it couldn't agree more. Speaking of Fullmer, it was Gene's brother, Jay, who refereed the bout. He did an excellent job, as usual, though he spent most of his time getting out of the way of the action of the fast paced bout.

There was mention of a possible world title fight in line for the winner, providing a suitable package could be put together for Danny Lopez in Salt Lake City. I don't believe Danny would be disappointed with either of these boxers, nor would the audience watching. Flores and Valencia proved that they are world class boxers with as much heart and ability as anyone. This reporter is sure that this is not the last time you'll see these two in the ring together. Javier needs a more convincing win to prove to himself that he is, indeed, the best featherweight in the state of Utah.

Other action saw lightweight Davy "Fireball" Ramos, Salt Lake City, kayo John Bradley in the second round. Ramos is now 2-0 — both knockouts.

Steve Huntington, 198, West Jordan, Utah, pounded out a tough six-round decision over Sampson Nagata, 208, of SLC. Huntington now stands at 8-0 with six kayoes.

Light heavyweight Gene Thorgison, Roy, Utah, outpointed Daniel Pulido, Clearfield. Both are now 4-1.

FRANCIS JACOBS

WASHINGTON

▲ TACOMA — Former banker and judge Billy Richmond passed away in his hometown, Tacoma, recently. Richmond had over 30 professional fights in the 1920s, while attending law school at Gonzaga University in Spokane. The local boxing fraternity will miss the friendly Richmond.

RUGGLES LARSON

CANADA

ALBERTA

▲ EDMONTON—Halifax light heavy Jerry Reddick remained undefeated as he kayoed Don Marshall, Toronto, in the first round in the main event.

In the co-feature, heavyweight Ron Rouselle kayoed last minute substitute Mike Quinsey, Vancouver, in 0:53 of the first round. Quinsey replaced Scotty Welsh, who had to pull out of the match due to a bout with pleurisy.

The balance of the card consisted of a "So You Wanna Fight" tournament. John White, Victoria, won the heavyweight division, while Randy Jackson took the middleweight crown. The lightweight title was won by Paul DeBedadetto, Prince George, who stopped Tom Howe, Edmonton, in the first round.

A crowd of 1,753 attended Jack McGlaughlin's show.

JIM JOHNSTON

MANITOBA

▲ WINNIPEG — Pedro Acosta, Panama, won a split decision over Danny Stokes, London, Ontario, in the 10-round junior lightweight main event. Acosta had Stokes on the canvas three times during the bout.

Terry Jesmer won the Western Canada middleweight title when he stopped veteran Tony Dowling, Vancouver, in the co-feature. Dowling built up an early lead, but ran out of gas and referee Yvon Durelle stopped the bout at 0:46 of the sixth round.

Bruce Strauss, Omaha, kayoed Bryan Thompson, Toronto, in the third round of a middleweight bout. Wayne Caplette stopped Harland Holden, Chicago, in the third frame of another middleweight contest.

In the opener, Rocky Mack, Chicago, scored a bit of an upset when he spoiled the debut of Winnipeg heavyweight Roy "Pretty Boy" Toews. Rocky knocked him kicking in the second.

The card, promoted by Tex Burns, drew a crowd of 2,800.

JIM JOHNSTON

NOVA SCOTIA

▲ HALIFAX — Clyde Gray regained the British Commonwealth welterweight title he had lost to young Chris Clarke by stopping Clarke in the 10th round.

Gray, 147, fought the type of fight he should have fought in their first encounter. He let Clarke, also 147, do the leading and counterpunched as only Clyde can. While the fight, until the 10th, was much closer than the first had been, Clyde was still the master. From the eighth round until the end, at 2:52 of the 10th, it was just a matter of time. Gray took over completely in the eighth and had Clarke in trouble on at least one occasion. Then, towards the end of the ninth, Clyde hurt Clarke — twice or maybe three times and Chris was in serious trouble.

When the bell rang for the 10th round, Clarke came out like he was full of fight, but, after a few seconds, Gray took over, and after he had decked Clarke for the third time with pinpoint combinations, referee Bobby Beaton called a halt.

Clarke's loss was his first in 21 pro fights, but the win for Gray was just another in his long career, dating back to 1968. But it was a very important win, as he said after the bout. It gave him the satisfaction of being able to come back after losing to Clarke. So, for Gray, it will be a well earned rest for a few months. For Clarke, it will be back to the drawing board.

All in all, it was not a bad night, financially, for either Gray or Clarke. Clarke took home some $32,000 for his night's work and Gray got $25,000 — and the title. There may be a rubber match in the spring.

The undercard was also well received by the large crowd. The opening four-rounder saw Tom Gourley, 115, Halifax, stop Ronnie Nesmith in the final session. It was Gourley's first pro fight and a good show for both beginners.

There were two eight-rounders: Alan Clarke, 143, Halifax, the brother of Chris, won a unanimous decision over Quinton Blackman, 145, Philadelphia. Roddie MacDonald, 176, New Waterford, Nova Scotia, now fighting out of Toronto, won a unanimous decision over "Irish" Johnny Gallagher, 188, White Plains, New York. The decision proved unpopular with the crowd, who thought the least Gallagher should have gotten was a draw.

GERRY SPEARS

ONTARIO

▲ WINDSOR — Arena — A "crowd" of 350 saw pro boxing return to the Windsor Arena after a six-year absence. In the feature event, Rico Hoye, 159, Detroit, won a unanimous decision over Gary Broughton, 160, Brantford, Ontario. It was an exciting fight, and the veteran Broughton, coming off a one-year lay-off, gave a good account of himself.

In the semi-final, Danny Jones, 144½, Windsor, scored a second round knockout over Philip Batie, 149, Cleveland. Jones, fighting his first pro fight before the hometown fans, had Batie on the deck three times before finishing him off at the 1:30 mark with a left hook-right cross combination. Danny's pro record is now 5-0.

Comebacking Vonzell Johnson, 186, Detroit, won an easy 10-round decision over Larry Sims, 206, Cleveland.

The curtain raiser was a real war between two local light heavyweights. Veteran Johnny Kubinec, 182, came back from a third round knockdown to win a four-round decision over tough Gary Hunter, 182½.

JERRY McCARTHY

QUEBEC

▲ MONTREAL — Forum — Vinnie Curto, formerly of Miami Beach, now fighting out of Montreal under the guidance of Roger Larivee, handed a 10-round boxing lesson to Eddie (Hurricane) Melo to win a unanimous decision before a crowd of over 8,000 fans.

Despite all the pre-fight talk, most of it by Melo, Eddie now knows that there is no substitute for experience. The 23-year-old Curto spotted his opponent three inches in height, over five pounds in weight, and four years in age, but, starting off at a fast clip from the initial bell, he took complete charge of the bout. Curto outboxed Melo for the first three rounds, as Eddie had no answer to the accurate left jabs and short, snappy right hand punches that continually jolted back his head. Unable to cope with his opponent's attack, Melo switched to the body in the fourth round, but he did not meet with much success. Curto was capable of tying Melo up when he bored in with bull like rushes in an attempt to get a body attack going. Eddie lost a point for low blows in the fourth.

This pattern went on till the seventh. After that, it was all Curto, who went back to boxing and rarely wasted a punch. The crowd was chanting "Curto, Curto," long before the final bell. The decision was a mere formality, Curto winning by scores of 50-44, 49-43, and 47-44. Vinnie's record is now 62-5-2, and he would like his next bout to be against Canadian middleweight champion Fernand Marcotte, Jr. It would be a great fight, but no title would be involved, as Curto does not qualify for a Canadian championship.

As for Eddie Melo, he has a lot of homework to do if he wants to remain a main event fighter. He needs a trainer who can teach him that the art of boxing is to give and avoid, not to give and receive. Making the 160-pound limit seems a job for Melo; he should consider the light heavyweight class in the future.

It was a blessing that the main event was good, because the supporting card was the "pits." Six preliminaries lasted a total of 13 rounds and were over in 29 minutes and 48 seconds. Results were as follows: Gaetan Hart, Hull, stopped inexperienced Benito Jiminez, New Jersey, at 1:49 of the fourth. Middleweight Jean Claude LeClair, Montreal, stopped Larry Davis, New York, at 2:39 of the second. Daniel Levesque, Montreal, kayoed Royal Boutin, Montreal, in 2:17 of the second. Mario Cusson, Montreal, blasted out one L.C. Kolin at 0:58 of the initial round. Jimmy Gradson, Montreal, halted Bobby Marsh in 0:53 of the first. Don Marshall outscored Brian Anderson, four, junior welterweights.

FRANK ALLNUTT

SASKATCHEWAN

▲ REGINA—George Jerome, 231, Vancouver, stayed in the win column with a fourth round knockout over Ron Douglas, 259, Omaha, in the fourth round of a scheduled 10-round bout.

Jerome outboxed his portly foe throughout the first three rounds, then swarmed to the attack in the fourth session and stopped Douglas with a series of left jabs and a solid right.

In the co-feature Kelly Anderson, Vancouver, took away Terry Jesmer's newly won Western Canada middleweight title with a first round kayo. Anderson caught Jesmer at the two-minute mark with a straight right hand lead to end the bout. Kelly is also known as Wayne Bobick and usually boxes in the light heavyweight division. His record is 3-2 as a professional.

Bruce Strauss of Omaha continued his winning ways as he stopped James Mullins, Salt Lake City, in the fifth round of a middleweight bout. Mullins put up a better fight than expected and had Strauss down in the second, but he ran out of steam in the fifth canto.

Frank Nichol, Winnipeg, stopped Vancouver's Frank Fitzpatrick in the third. Wayne Caplette remained unbeaten in 10 pro fights when he won a split duke over Dave Wade, Vancouver. Wade is 6-1 in the pro ranks.

JIM JOHNSTON

MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA

▲ TIJUANA — Ignacio "Negro" campos, 135, TKO'd Jose Luis Soberanes, 135, in the eighth round. Angel Feliz, 112, TKO'd Jesus Delgado, 111,eight. Ulises Urquiza, 120, halted Manuel Beltran, 121, in the first.

CAMPECHE

▲ CAMPECHE — Jose Baquedano, 151, knocked out Andres Nunez, 152, in the first round. Juan "Dinamita" Hernandez, 134, stopped Andres Lobera, 135, in two. Ricardo "Leoncito" Peralta, 125, halted Mario "Dinamita" Delgado, 125, in two.

CHIAPAS

▲ TUXTLA GUTIERREZ — Jimmy Fernandez, 111, TKO'd Ignacio Espinal, 113, in three. Luis "Puma" Fuente, 125, TKO'd Amado "Costeno" Mendoza, 125, in eight. Santiago "Raton" Perez, 119, TKO'd Javier "Mojarra" Solis, 118, in eight. Finito Lopez, 111, outscored Daniel Guillen, 111, 10.

DISTRICTO FEDERAL

▲ MEXICO CITY — Carlos Ibarra, 122, outscored Pablo Ramirez, 121, 10. Oscar Gomez, 111, TKO'd Beto Perez, 111, in three. Luis Castillo, 110, outpointed David Garcia, 111, eight. Mauricio Aceves, 119, outscored Lupe Martinez, 117, six. Hilario Cortes, 113, outpointed Hector Ramirez, 112, four.

▲ MEXICO CITY — Jose "Bazookita" Zavala, 107, won by a disqualification over Lupe Madera, 107, in seven. Jorge de Jesus, 112, TKO'd Luis Enrique Garcia, 111, in six. Nacho Rivera, 126, outpointed Miguel Valderrama, 125, eight. Gustavo Baleon, 116, and Francisco Tapia, 117, drew, six. Victor Montero, 117, TKO'd Ismael Rojas, 118, in one.

▲ MEXICO CITY — Federico Carreno, 125, TKO'd Bernardo "Batallador" Ibarra, 125, in the eighth round. Pablo Marquez, 124, won by a disqualification over "Chilango" Pacheco.

▲ MEXICO CITY — Candido Tellez, 108, TKO'd Pedro Moreno, 105, in four. Armando "Palitos" Perez, 113, TKO'd Jorge Manuel Vera, 112, in four. Eleuterio Davila, 144, TKO'd Agustin Ramirez, 147, in five. Martin Vidal, 114, kayoed Juan "Toluquito" Hernandez, 115, in one. Angel Ortega, 112, outscored Carmelo Negrete, 111, four.

▲ MEXICO CITY — Pablo "Ciceron" Rodriguez, 134, TKO'd Jesus Ramirez, 134, in two. Memo Miranda, 135, knocked out Jacobo "Pantera" Fonseca, 134, in the fourth round. Javier Esquivel, 118, kayoed Chucho Gutierrez, 116, in the second. Cayetano Correa, 114, TKO'd Melchor Mendoza, 115, in five. Francisco Sanchez, 117, and Ciro Hernandez, 118, drew, four.

▲ **MEXICO CITY** — Jose Duarte, 148, TKO'd Jimmy Jackson, 143, U.S.A., in five. Sergio Lozano, 155, TKO'd Ruben Quintas, 155, in four. Ambrosio Luna, 117, outpointed Marxos Villafana, 119, 10. Chano Molina, 119, outscored Alberto Cardenas, 118, eight. Marcelo Vega, 115, TKO'd Adolfo Gasca, 115, in two.

▲ **MEXICO CITY** — Elias Equihua, 174, outpointed Roberto Cruz, 172, 10. Fidencio Gonzalez, 134, outscored Cenobio Nicolas, 126, 10. Bernardino Pena, 113, outpointed Pascual Garcia, 114, six.

GUERRERO

▲ **ACAPULCO** — Jorge Castillo, 117, and Roberto Corona, 117, no contest, three. Balam Torres, 124, kayoed Naty Echeverria, 125, in four.

▲ **ACAPULCO** — Fidel Martinez, 112, outscored Jose Gabriel Tzab, 111, 10.

▲ **ACAPULCO** — Romeo Anaya, 125, TKO'd Carmelo "Chino Montes, 125, in two. Alejandro "Mamila" Garcia, 124, TKO'd Fernando Aviles, 125, in five.

▲ **ACAPULCO** — Felipe Farias, 112, outpointed Enrique "Tranquita" Brown, 111, Panama, 10. Joel Gatica, 112, TKO'd Eleazar Zarate, 111, in four.

JALISCO

▲ **GUADALAJARA** — Unbeaten Rodolfo "Gato" Gonzalez, 133, demolished Salvador Torres, 133, in the first round. Pedro Galaviz, 111, TKO'd Elias "Chaparro" de Leon, 112, in one. Hector Cortes, 118, scored an upset when he TKO'd Francisco "Trompo" Marquez, 121, in four. Rodolfo "Dorado" Martinez, 111, outpointed Ernesto Guevara, 111, 10. Benigno "Benny" Barajas, 119, outscored Delfino Lopez, 121, four.

▲ **GUADALAJARA** — Kiko Vejinez, 112, kayoed Jorge Vera, 112, in the first round. Jose Acosta, 113, TKO'd Oscar "Negro" Vejinez, 113, in five.

▲ **GUADALAJARA** — Roberto "Lobita" Ramirez, 112, TKO'd Juan Zarate, 112, in five to retain the Jalisco State flyweight title. Efrain "Caiman" Rosas, 118, knocked out Roberto "Cobra" Rosas, 119, in one.

▲ **GUADALAJARA** — Rodolfo "Dorado" Martinez, 112, TKO'd Monico Martinez, 112, in two. Roberto Alonso, 115, halted Alfredo Hernandez, 115, in four.

NUEVO LEON

▲ **MONTERREY** — Alberto Lopez, 145, TKO'd Abel Cordoba, 147, in eight. Baldomero Santos, 112, TKO'd Jesus Portillo, 112, in the 12th and last round to win the flyweight championship of Nuevo Leon State.

SINALOA

▲ **LOS MOCHIS** — Betillo Gutierrez, 135, outscored Ernest Davis, 135, Panama, 10.

SONORA

▲ **HERMOSILLO** — Norberto Cabrera, 118, retained his Mexican bantamweight title when his bout with Francisco "Trompo" Marquez, 118, ended in "no contest" in nine rounds. A tremendous riot stopped the fight.

▲ **CIUDAD OBREGON** — Lupe Pintor, 121, outpointed Jose Luis Soto, 118, 10.

TAMAULIPAS

▲ **REYNOSA** — Antonio Becerra, 121, stopped Willie Crossman, 122, in three. Manny Castillo, 134, knocked out Jimmy Garza, 133, in two.

▲ **VALLE HERMOSO** — Jose Luis Cruz, 114, halted Ruben Aguirre, 115, in four. Juan del Toro, 134, outscored Jose Luis Zuniga, 135, 10. Francisco Balderas, 123, stopped Jose Alfaro, 123, in two.

VERACRUZ

▲ **COATZACOALCOS** — Amado "Costeno" Mendoza, 118, kayoed Sergio Cabrera, 118, in nine.

▲ **COATZACOALCOS** — Paulino Canche, 118, TKO'd Emilio "Cacha" Zamora, 119, in seven. Adolfo Sanjeado, 145, outpointed Chucho Almazan, 147, 10. Antonio "Chino" Benitez, 113, TKO'd Chucho Morales, 113, in seven. Finito Mendez, 112, outpointed Jorge Pech, 11, 10.

▲ **COATZACOALCOS** — Finito Lopez, 112, outscored Victor Medina, 111, 10. Diego Franco, 111, halted Luis Prieto, 112, six.

▲ **COATZACOALCOS** — Roberto Llanes, 111, outscored Juan "Tanquecito" Cuevas, 112, 10.

EDUARDO AMER G.

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

▲ **BUENOS AIRES — Luna Park Stadium** — Ricardo Arce outpointed Ruben Pardo, 12, to win the Argentine middleweight title. Roberto Ruiz kayoed Hector Centurion, six, middleweights. Francisco Altamirano and Raul Pared drew, six, featherweights. Luciano Acona outscored Alberto Pereyra, six, featherweights.

▲ **GENERAL ACHA** — Segundo Aguirre outpointed Oscar Lujan, welterweights.

▲ **VILLA CARLOS PAZ — Stadium** — Santos Laciar outpointed Luis Gomez, flyweights. Adolfo Felice kayoed Angel Picon, 10, junior welters.

▲ **PERGAMINO** — Sergio Loyola kayoed Marciano Tura, lightweights. Raul Gonzalez outpointed Mario Arreguez, eight.

▲ **POSADAS** — Carlos Nascimiento kayoed Oscar Fatima Barrios, one, junior middleweights.

▲ **CONCEPCION** — Mario Campos won a technical decision over Oscar Caro, seven, light heavyweights.

▲ **ROSARIO — Sportivo America Stadium** — Argentine and South American junior flyweight champion Rodolfo Rodriguez outscored Miguel Lazarte, 10.

▲ **SAN PEDRO** — Lorenzo Garcia outpointed Juan Zuniga, 10, lightweights.

▲ **MAR DEL PLATA — Kimberley Stadium** — Former Argentine light heavyweight champion Ramon Reinaldo Cerrezuela outscored Roberto Aguilar, 10.

▲ **LABOULAYE** — Alberto Prieto and Ramon Allende drew, 10, junior welterweights.

▲ **FORMOSA** — Angel "Mini" Zalazar outpointed David Gonzalez, 10, junior featherweights.

▲ **VILLA ANGELA** — Omar Mendoza outpointed Carlos Martinetti, featherweights.

▲ **FREIRE** — Juan Domingo "Martillo" Roldan won a technical decision over Natalio Ibarra, four, middleweights.

▲ **VILLA MARIA** — Brilliant undefeated flyweight Gustavo Ballas outpointed Chile's Hector Velazquez, 10.

▲ **LA PLATA — Atenas Club** — Hugo Arce Rossi outpointed Jesus Ibanez, 10, light heavyweights.

▲ **CONCORDIA** — Bernardo Narvaez outpointed Jose A. Fernandez, 10, junior middleweights.

▲ **TOSTADO** — Juan C. Morales outscored Ramon Quintana, 10, welterweights.

▲ **TUCUMAN — Club Defensores de Villa Lujan** — Luis Perez outpointed Rodolfo Petrizani, lightweights. Oscar Arevalo outscored Jose Filippi, 10, lightweights.

▲ **CORRIENTES** — Veteran Ricardo Molina Ortiz, Chile, outpointed Alberto Almiron, middleweights.

▲ **SALTA — Club Stadium** — Hipolito Nunez outscored Alfredo Moyano, 10, featherweights.

▲ **EMBALSE** — Mario Puerto outscored Omar Gonzalez, 10, junior lightweights.

▲ **ARRECIFES** — Luis Gerez kayoed Antonio Gomez, two, bantamweights.

▲ **SAN LUIS** — Abraham Valenzuela outpointed Roberto Alfaro, 10, lightweights.

▲ **SAN MIGUEL** — Ramon Melgarejo outpointed Manuel Pedroza, eight, lightweights.

▲ **LA RIOJA** — Hugo Trujillo and Catalino Sosa drew, 10, junior middleweights.

▲ **LA BANDA** — Hector Lopez outscored Ruben Butiler, 10, featherweights.

▲ **RIO III** — Mario Vizcaya outpointed Rodolfo del Rosario Diaz, 10, lightweights.

▲ **METAN** — Juan Medina and Ernesto Fernandez, Uruguay, drew, 10, featherweights.

▲ **CATRILO** — Alberto Rios and Oscar Silva drew, 10, featherweights.

▲ **GENERAL ALVEAR** — Raul "Nico" Perez outpointed Esteban Bustos, 10, bantamweights.

▲ **TRELEW** — Ramon "Moncho" Dominguez, a young featherweight prospect, outscored Diego Vega Ramirez, Paraguay, 10.

▲ **GUALEGUAY** — Ramon Gonzalez outscored Oscar Frias, 10, lightweights.

▲ **GUALEGUAYCHU** — Rogelio Zarza kayoed Juan J. Perez, 10, junior middleweights.

▲ **DOLORES** — Cesar Duarte kayoed Carlos Pouyannes, six, light heavyweights.

▲ **INTENDENTE ALVEAR** — Juan Cortez outpointed Rolando Lahoz, 10, bantamweights.

▲ **SAN JUAN** — Manuel Lopez TKO'd Juan de Dios Acosta, six, junior welterweights.

▲ **BAHIA BLANCA — Norberto Tomas Gymnasium** — Former Argentine welterweight champion Simon Escobar and local prospect Miguel A. Garcia drew, 10.

▲ **ACEBAL** — Ramon Moreyra kayoed Jorge Almada, five, lightweights.

▲ **ROSARIO — Sportivo America Stadium** — Ruben Granado outpointed Gilberto Lopez, Uruguay, 10, junior featherweights. Juan Galvez kayoed Eduardo Aguirre, three, lightweights.

▲ **VILLAGUAY** — Luis Franco and Hugo Fernandez drew, 10, featherweights.

▲ **RIO IV** — Argentine lightweight champion Oscar "Cachin" Mendez and Jorge "Polvorita" Gomez drew, 10.

▲ **TUCUMAN** — Santiago Portillo outpointed Juan Carlos Canete, 10, junior welterweights. Adrian Roman outscored Jose Ibiris, 10, flyweights.

▲ **GUALEGUAYCHU** — Jose Uziga outpointed Juan Jose Espindola, 10, bantamweights.

▲ **LA RIOJA** — Jose Narvaez outpointed Jose Flores, 10,

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bantamweights.

▲ **CERES** — Juan M. Suarez and Alfredo Campos drew, 10, welterweights.

▲ **MENDOZA — Pascual Perez Stadium** — Argentine and South American junior middleweight champion Manuel Ricardo Gonzalez outscored Ramon Mendez, 10. This was Gonzalez's first appearance since his kayo at the hands of Masashi Kudo in a world title bout.

▲ **CORDOBA** — Candido Barrera outpointed Ismael Gonzalez, eight, light heavyweights.

▲ **TIGRE** — Jose Gigena kayoed Santos Median, two, welterweights.

▲ **GENERAL ACHA** — Americo Suarez kayoed Ramon Baez, three, bantamweights.

▲ **MOLDES** — Jose M. Lopez outscored Hugo Emer, 10, junior featherweights.

▲ **POSADAS** — Former Argentine flyweight champion Juan Jose Brizuela and Francisco Acosta drew, 10.

▲ **CORDOBA — Redes Cordobesas Stadium** — Former Argentine middleweight champion Juan Carlos Bogado TKO'd Juan Domingo "Martillo" Roldan. Roldan quit, claiming foul, but the Commission ruled it technical knockout.

▲ **AZUL** — Ernesto Contreras outscored Hugo Salega, 10, middleweights.

▲ **RIO IV** — Raul Bianco and Armando Perez drew, 10, featherweights.

▲ **TANDIL — Ramon Stamarina Stadium** — Cesar Villarruel outpointed Carlos Bustamante, two, middleweights.

▲ **MAR DEL PLATA — Kimberley Stadium** — Mario Omar Guilloti won a technical decision over Hector Caceres, four, welterweights.

▲ **SAN JUAN** — Roberto Aguilar outpointed former Argentine heavyweight champion Pablo Noe Castellino, 10. Rolando Lahoz outscored Alejandro Olguin, 10, bantamweights.

▲ **ROSARIO** — Jorge Morello and Miguel Combi drew, 10, welterweights.

▲ **TUCUMAN** — Juan Barboza and Carlos "Sapito" Alvarez, Uruguay, drew, 10, welterweights. Gustavo Martinez and Omar Gonzalez drew, 10, lightweights.

▲ **SALTA** — Undefeated Jesus Romero knocked out Roque Arevalo in the sixth round, lightweights.

▲ **MENDOZA** — Adolfo Cruz outpointed Aldo Cardona, 10, middleweights.

▲ **LA BANDA** — Luis Peralta TKO'd Miguel Angel Moyano, six, middleweights.

▲ **BUENOS AIRES — Luna Park Stadium** — Argentine and South American flyweight champion Ramon Balbino Soria outpointed Ramon Rodriguez. Soria thus gained revenge for the only loss of his career, a kayo suffered at the hands of Rodriguez in Tucuman. Miguel Barraza and Carlos Villanueva drew, eight, lightweights. Victorio Navarro kayoed Nicolas Vega, six, lightweights. Luis Lopez and Marcelo Ruiz Diaz drew, six, junior middleweights.

▲ **ROSARIO** — Domingo Aragon outpointed Jose Izquierdo, 10, bantamweights.

▲ **GENERAL BELGRANO** — Orlando French outscored Felipe Baez, eight, lightweights.

▲ **TUCUMAN** — Ramon Carrezuela outpointed Ruben Zamaro, light heavyweights. Roberto Ale Ali kayoed Juan M. Suarez, eight, welterweights.

▲ **CORDOBA — Redes Cordobesas Stadium** — Raul Omar Porcel de Peralta and Ramon Enrique Perez drew, 10, middleweights.

▲ **VILLA REGINA** — Argentine and South American junior featherweight champion Sergio Palma outpointed Gilberto Lopez, Uruguay, 10. Palma is waiting for a title shot with WBA champion Ricardo Cardona.

▲ **SALTA — Club Stadium** — Ruben Condori kayoed Enrique Navarro, three, flyweights.

▲ **BUENOS AIRES — Luna Park Stadium** — Eduardo "Tito" Yanni kayoed Ricardo "Palito" Magallanes in the first round to win the Argentine welterweight title. Jorge Medina outpointed Jose Fernandez, junior middleweights. Carlos Russo and Urbano Villalba drew, six, featherweights. Manuel Alvarez, son of the former Argentine featherweight champion, outscored Ramon Abeldano, six, welterweights.

CARLOS IRUSTA

EUROPE

Berlin — Dutchman Henk Ruhling, manager, matchmaker, agent, and promoter, is probably running a close second to Briton Mickey Duff, for the title "Mr. Boxing." Not only does Ruhling travel to all parts of the world with his fighters, he also finds time to promote a couple of European title bouts on the same card at Rotterdam's 8,000-seater venue, Ahoy.

Rudi Koopman, Holland, and Hocine Tafer, France, remain undefeated. Their European light heavyweight title fight ended in a draw after 12 rounds and allowed the Dutchman to retain his crown. The crowd was not too pleased with the local matador's performance, and, as Koopman left the ring, he was booed and whistled. A return match must, of course, take place and Koopman will have to do better than this next time if he intends to stay champion. Tafer said he will win inside the distance next time they meet. A right cross dropped Koopman in the 10th, but he recovered well and fought back strongly against the brilliant counterpuncher from France. The Dutchman bled from a cut left eyebrow and was also handicapped by a large blister on his right foot.

Also on this bill, European junior middleweight champion Marijan Benes of Yugoslavia held on to his crown, beating Dutch challenger Andrie Huusen in three rounds. A left hook decked the Dutchman in the second, and, on rising, the bell saved him. A right hook to the body put Huusen down in the third and the ref called a halt.

Alan Minter has, reluctantly, vacated his European middleweight throne. The Briton, waiting for an overdue shot at the world crown, was ordered to defend against the Frenchman, Gratien Tonna. (Tonna had surrendered in six rounds to Minter last year.) In most eyes, Frank Wissenbach of Germany is the fighter who should have been nominated as Minter's challenger.

BELGIUM

▲ **LIEGE** — Clemente Tshinza, Zaire, based in Luxembourg, outpointed veteran middleweight Bennie Briscoe over 10 rounds.

▲ **AMBERS** — Albert Syben retained his Belgium heavyweight title outscoring Robert Desnoeck, 10 rounds.

▲ **IZEGEN** — Heavyweights: George Butzbach, Germany, outscored Jean Pierre Coopman, Belgium, 10. Welterweights: Frankie Decaester, Belgium outpointed Perry Boundka, France, six. Junior Middleweights: Dirck Declerck, Belgium, beat fellow countryman Fredo Roelands, who retired with a cut eyebrow in round five.

DENMARK

▲ **COPENHAGEN** — Welterweights: Dane Hans Henrik Palm beat Argentine Omar Oliva, based in Italy. The towel was thrown in with 30 seconds left in round seven. Junior middleweights: Former European champion Marco Scano, lost half his 15,000-croner purse when he retired in the first minute of round two against Torben Andersen, Denmark. Welters: European champion Jorgen Hansen (36) decisioned Remo Costa, eight. Flyweights: Former Amateur champion Stephan Muchoki (23), Kenya, based in Denmark, outscored Filippo Belvedere over four rounds. Middles: Poul Baekgaard beat Antonio Ceraudo in four rounds. Heavyweights: Peter Holm, U.S.A., outscored Fausto Constanino, Italy, four.

FRANCE

▲ **PARIS** — Junior welterweights: Des Morrison kayoed Louis Acaries, France one. This caused quite a sensation.

▲ **DUNKIRK** — Fred Coranson outscored Charlie Malarkey over eight rounds after the latter had been decked twice in the opening session.

▲ **VILLER SEMEUSE** — Junior middleweights: Maurice Renaud beat Jean Paul Cppyn on points, six.

▲ **VILLEURBAUNE** — Welterweights: Francis Derderain beat Jean Michel Iger on points, six. Middleweights: Frederic Boissy outscored Justin M'Foudi over six rounds.

▲ **TROYES** — Middleweights: Jean Philippe Truchelut TKO'd Rida Hakima, three.

▲ **SAINT MALO** — Junior middleweights: Claude Martin TKO'd Tiger Quaye, five.

▲ **SALON DE PROVENCE** — Junior middleweights: Euguene Dovin TKO'd Daniel Hyvon, four.

GERMANY

▲ **MUNICH** — 2,300 saw promoter Otto Graf's promotion, which took place in a circus tent. In the main event, Frank Wissenbach retained his German middleweight title, drawing with George Steinherr over 10 rounds. Middleweights: Wolfgang Lechner outscored Antonio Gerauldo, four. Rudiger Bitterling kayoed Brahin Feriozіva, six. Welterweights: Pepe Gimenez decisioned Chris Davies, eight.

ITALY

▲ **FLORENCE** — Featherweights: Franco Siddu outscored Hosia da Sylva, eight. Jun welter. Patrizio Buruni outscored Maliba Kibassa, eight.

▲ **PIACENZA** — Lightweights: Severino Picca TKO'd Andrea Ricci four. Abass Macauley TKO'd Vincenzo Morana five.

▲ **PESARO** — Featherweights: Salvatore Melluzzo TKO'd Salvatore Avella, five. Junior welters: Eupremio Epifani outscored Graziano Gasai, six.

▲ **CAGLIARI** — Bantamweights: Emilio Pireddu TKO'd Claudio Tanda, five. Featherweights: Fabrio Mannai outpointed Pietro Bonati, six.

▲ **ROVAGNATE** — Featherweights : Nunziato Sanna outscored Giuseppe Agate, eight. Giovanni Carrino decisioned Palmiro Masala, six.

▲ **ROME** — Welters— Callara Pietro TKO'd Angelo Fanciulli, two. Light heavyweights: Lino Lemma outpointed Gino Freo, eight.

▲ **RAVENNA** — Bantamweights: Valerio Nati decisioned Luigi Tessarin, eight. Lightweights: Marino Angeli TKO'd Abass Macauley, six. Middleweights: Alvaro Scarpelli kayoed Roy Kaba, eight.

▲ **CAGLIARI** — Featherweights: Natale Caredda outscored Marco Gallo, 10. Welters: Francesco Aresti decisioned Scipione Colaianni, six.

▲ **TARANTO** — Lightweights: Vincenz Quero outscored Antonio Puddu, 10. Welterweights: Francesco Morrone outscored Vincenzo Bottogliero, six.

□ₛ▲ **ST. PAOLO CIVTALE** — In a bout for the Italian junior welterweight title, Luigi Minchillo TKO'd Paolo Zanusso, five. Flyweights: Antonio Ceraudo outpointed Corrado Infante, six.

▲ **FIGLINE** — Lightweights: Bruno Simili outpointed Antonio Sandrin, six. Junior welters: Patrizio Burini kayoed Luigi Dal Santo, one.

▲ **ROVAGNATE** — Lightweights: Giovanni Carrino met Nunziato Sanna and the fight was declared no contest in round five.

▲ **SAVONA** — In an Italian flyweight title bout, Sabatino De Filippo outscored Giovanni Camptaro, 12. Junior lightweights: Alfredo Raninger outscored Palmira Pizzata, six. Junior welterweights: Sergio D'Angelo kayoed graziano Gusai, one.

▲ **FROSINONE** — Junior welterweights: Michele Egidi TKO'd Gerardo Scognamiglio, six.

▲ **CINISELLO** — Lightweights: Biagio Perri decisioned Abass Macauley, eight rounds. Junior welters: Rocco Frasca TKO'd Angelo Aanetti, three.

▲ **SASSARI** — Featherweights: Pietro Donati TKO'd Fabio Mannai, six. Ignazio Fara TKO'd Pietro Candidda, two.

▲ **ROME** — Welterweights: Giancarlo Marinelli outscored Giuseppe Minotti, eight.

▲ **SONDRIO** — Middleweights: Roberto Manoni decisioned Luciano Di Giacomp, six. Giorgio Giana outscored Gabriele Lazzari, eight.

▲ **EMPOLI** — Flyweights: Roberto D'Aula kayoed Michele De Marco, three.

▲ **MERANO** — Featherweights: Lorenzo Paciullo outscored Antonio Pisani, six. Arthuro De Prezzo decisioned Vincenzo Morana, six. Junior welters: Antonio Antino outpointed Antonio Germano, six.

▲ **NETTUNO** — Junior lightweights: Luciano Frasca outpointed Domenico Condello, six.

▲ **SEREGNO** — Bantamweights: Mario Bitetto kayoed Antonio Galletta, two.

▲ **ROCCA PRIORA** — Light heavyweights: Lino Lemma TKO'd Darko Barakovic, five. Welters: Luigi Cucetti and Maurizio Condello drew, six.

▲ **RIMINI** — Junior lightweights: Salvatore Fabrizio outscored Vincenzo Di Bari, six. Heavyweights: Leroy Diggs TKO'd Gilbert Acuna, six. Lightweights: Lucio Cusma and Giuseppe Gibilischo drew, eight.

▲ **SEVERO** — Junior welterweights Giuseppe Russi decisioned Francesco Gallo, eight.

▲ **CERVETERI** — Welterweights: Pietro Calara TKO'd Dario Vigini, five. Middleweights: Nicola Cirelli kayoed Gabriele Lazzari, five. Light heavyweights: Pierre Kabassu Luchiano Bolis, three.

▲ **FABRIANO** — In an Italian junior welterweight title fight, Giuseppe Martinese outscored Luciano Navarra, 12. Welters: Germano Marini decisioned Scipione Colaianni, six. Junior lights: Luiga De Rosa met Domenico Traini and the bout was declared no contest after eight.

▲ **COLLEMARINO** — Junior middleweights Cosimo Carbone outscored Maricio Hernandez, eight.

▲ **SALERNO** — Junior lightweights: Michele D'Amato outpointed Antonio Franca, eight.

▲ **PLACENZA** — Junior lightweights: Helenio Ferreira and Abass Macauley drew, eight. Middleweights: Aldo Buzzetti outscored Corrado Sortino, six.

▲ **FORTE VILLAGE** — Junior welterweights: Pellegrimo Ventrone kayoed Angelo Faniulli, four.

▲ **RIMINI** — Featherweights: Salvatore Melluzzo TKO'd Giancarlo Ravaioli, four. Lightweights: Joey Gibilisco decisioned Giovanni Vitillo, eight. Middleweights: Cosimo Funto outscored Luciano Di Giacomo, six.

▲ **TARANTO** — Junior welterweights: Eupremio Epifani TKO'd Giovanni Sanna, five. Carrino TKO'd Nunziato Sanna, seven.

▲ **MOZZANICA** — Bantamweights: Giuseppe Fossati outscored ragga Murphy, eight. Light heavyweights: Luciano Bolis and Andrea Sangaletti drew, six.

▲ **BOLZANO** — Featherweights: Arturo De Prezzo outscored Lorenzo Paciullo, eight.

▲ **MARMIROLO** — Welterweights Giuseppi Di Padova outpointed Giuseppe Corbo, eight.

▲ **SONDRIO** — Featherweights: Gianfranco Lalli outscored Josia Malquidas da Silva, eight.

▲ **TERRACINA** — Junior welterweights: Rosario Di Tommaso TKO'd Alfonso Carillo, seven.

▲ **NETTUNO** — Featherweights: Luciano Frasca outscored Pietro Donati six.

▲ **TOSCOLANO** — In an Italian heavyweight title fight, Giovanni De Luca TKO'd Rinaldo Pellizzari, nine.

▲ **ARIANO** — Bantamweights: Luigi Tessarin outscored Antonio Frasca, eight.

▲ **LADISPOLI** — Middleweights: Antonio Crescenza outscored Giancarlo Serangeli, six.

▲ **TARQUINIA** — In an Italian featherweight title fight, Salvatore Liscapade outpointed Salvatore Fabrizio, 12.

▲ **GINOSA** — Lightweights: Vincenzo Quero decisioned Abass MacAuley, eight. Junior middles: Francsco Morrone outpointed Mario Favotto, six.

▲ **MORROCONE** — Middleweights: Nicola Cirelli kayoed Branko Barakovic, four.

▲ **VIVO** — Middleweights: Giancarlo Serangeli and Antonio Crescenza, drew six.

▲ **CHIAVARI** — Junior welterweights: Pasquale Zampano and Luigi Curcetti drew, six. Lightweights: Alfredo Reininger TKO'd Andrea Ricci, three.

▲ **FORTE VILLAGE** — Junior welters: Bruno De Montis TKO'd Gerardo Scognamiglio, three. Bantams: Ragga Murphy and Helenio Ferreira drew, eight.

NORWAY

▲ **OSLO** — Light heavyweights: Karl Canwell kayoed Harald Skog, two. A right to the body and a left hook to the chin brought the fight to a close.

SPAIN

▲ **LA CORUNA** — Former European heavyweight champion Alfredo Evangelista, Spain, beat Briton Tony Moore a second time. His first loss against the Spaniard was in 1976, but in this second meeting, Moore decked Evangelista in round two with a right to the head and was controversally outscored over the 10 rounds.

▲ **BILBAO** — Junior middleweights: Andoni Amana TKO'd Young Griffo three. Jose Hernandez decisioned Aldo Olivaries, eight. Welters: Antonio Reinoso decisioned Jose Luis Garzon, six.

▲ **SANTANDER** — Featherweights: Carlos Hernandez outscored Hugo Carrizo, eight. Welters: Jose Ramon Gomez Fouz outscored Oswaldo Lopez, eight. Bantams: Esteban Equia outpointed Angel Oliver, eight.

▲ **MADRID** — Bantamweights: Luis de la Sagra outpointed Francisco Garcia, 10.

▲ **MADRID** — Featherweights: Emilio Barcala decisioned Fancisco Garcia, six.

▲ **BILBAO** — Junior welterweights: Angel Guinaldo outscored Fernando Sanchez, eight. Garcia Marin TKO'd Francisco Cabello, two. Heavyweights: Avenamar Peralta outpointed Jose A Galvez, eight. Welters: Mutil Nando and Emilio Molero drew, eight.

▲ **VILLABA DENNAVARRA** — Welterweights: Carlos Morales TKO'd Rocky Tobio three. Jose Luis Garzon TKO'd Pedro Morales, three.

▲ **MEDILLA** — Junior welterweights: Jose Luis Heredia beat Mohamed Jofre, eight. In a Spanish lightweight title fight, Francisco Leon outscored Manuel Velasquez, 10. Middleweights: Crespi beat Inaki, who was disqualified in round four.

▲ **SATANDER** — Featherweights: Cecilio Lastra and Samuel Meck drew, eight. Bantams: Nani Rodriguez TKO'd Torito Gomez, four. Lightweights: Hugo Carrizo decisioned Dos Santos, eight.

▲ **MADRID** — Junior lightweights: Isidoro Cabeza and Tiger Tek drew, eight.

▲ **SAN SEBASTIAN** — Junior welterweights: Fernando Sanchez TKO'd Angel Carmona, seven. Feathers: Manuel Masso outscored Angel Oliver, eight. Junior lightweights—Murillo outpointed Toni Granados, six. Heavyweights: Ali Lukasa TKO'd Konate, two.

JACK A. TREE

EUROPEAN RATINGS

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion: Lorenzo Zanon (I)
1. Alfio Righetti (I)
2. John L. Gardner (GB)
3. Al Syben (B)
4. Alfredo Evengelista (S)
5. Felipe Rodriguez (S)
6. Lucien Rodriguez (F)
7. Tommy Kiely (GB)
8. Les Stevens (GB)
9. Tony Moore (GB)
10. George Butzbach (G)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion: Rudi Koopmans (H)
1. Mate Parlov (Y)
2. John Conteh (GB)
3. Hocine Tafer (F)
4. David Conteh (GB)
5. Bunny Johnson (GB)
6. Aldo Traversaro (I)
7. Avenamar Peralta (S)
8. Ennio Cometti (I)
9. Robert Amory (F)
10. Dennis Andries (GB)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Championship: Vacant
1. Alan Minter (GB)
2. Gratien Tonna(F)
3. Kevin Finnegan (GB)
4. Tony Sibson (GB)
5. Frankie Lucas (GB)
6. Matteo Salvemini (I)
7. Frank Wissenbach (G)
8. George Steinherr (G)
9. Alvaro Scarpelli (I)
10. Roy Gumbs (GB)

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion: Marijan Benes (Y)
1. Maurice Hope (GB)
2. Adoni Amana (S)
3. Pat Thomas (GB)
4. Jimmy Batten (GB)
5. Luigi Minchillo (I)
6. Jose Hernandez (S)
7. Claude Martin (F)
8. Andrie Huussen (H)
9. Prince Rodney (GB)
10. Dave Proud (GB)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion: Jorgen Hansen (D)
1. Dave Green (GB)
2. Hans Henrik Palm (D)
3. Kirkland Laing (GB)
4. Piere Angelo Piras (I)
5. Alois Carmeliet (GB)
6. Giovanni Molesini (I)
7. Richard Rodriguez (S)
8. Carlos Morales (S)
9. Dum Dum Pacheco (S)
10. Louis Acaries (S)

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion: Jo Kimpuani (F)
1. Clinton McKenzie (GB)
2. Colin Powers (GB)
3. Des Morrison (GB)
4. Perico Fernandez (S)
5. Giuseppe Martinese (I)
6. Antonio Guinaldo (S)
7. Fernando Sanchez (S)
8. Roberto Gambini (F)
9. Sylvester Mittee (GB)
10. Papperito Gimenez (S)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion: Charlie Nash (GB)
1. Jim Watt (GB)
2. Ray Cattouse (GB)
3. Ken Buchanan (GB)
4. Jose Luis Heredia (S)
5. Andre Holyk (F)
6. Giancarlo Usai (I)
7. Francisco Leon (S)
8. Manuel Velasquez (S)
9. Vincenzo Quero (I)
10. Antonio Puddu (I)

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion: Rodolfo Sanchez (S)
1. Carlos Hernandez (S)
2. Charles Jurietti (F)
3. Maurice Apeang (F)
4. Natale Vezzoli (I)
5. Salvatore Liscapade (I)
6. Isidor Cabeza (S)
7. Nino Jimenez (S)
8. Cosimo Lavino (I)
9. Manuel Alcala (S)
10. Biago Pierri (I)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion: Roberto Castanon (S)
1. Cecilio Lastra (S)
2. Pat Codwell (GB)
3. Dave Needham (S)
4. Jimmy Flint (GB)
5. Manuel Masso (S)
6. Potito Di Muro (I)
7. Natale Gareddia (I)
8. Salvatore Melluzzo (F)
9. Ramon Marichal (S)
10. Les Pickett (GB)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion: Juan Francisco Rodriguez (S)
1. Johnny Owen (GB)
2. Vincente Rodriguez (S)
3. Luis De La Sagra (S)
4. Esteban Eguia (S)
5. John Feeney (GB)
6. Laurent Grimbert (F)
7. Giuseppe Fossati (I)
8. Dave Smith (GB)
9. Franco Buglione (I)
10. Guy Caudron (F)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champion: Charlie Magri (GB)
1. Manuel Carrasco (S)
2. Sabatino DeFilippo (I)
3. Giovanni Camputaro (I)
4. Rodriguez Cal (S)
5. Emilio Pireddu (I)
6. Mariano Garcia (S)
7. Filippo Belvedere (I)
8. Paolo Castrovilli (I)
9. Mario Bitetto (I)
10. Jaime Lozano (S)

Legend: (B) Belgium; (D) Denmark; (F) Finland; (G) Germany; (GB) Great Britain; (H) Holland; (I) Italy; (L) Luxembourg; (N) Norway; (S) Spain; (Sd) Switzerland; (Sw) Sweden; (Y) Yugoslavia.

BRITISH ISLES

SIBSON-CLASSEN
MWALE-MARKS

Royal Albert Hall, London — A promoter is always on a hiding to nothing when he has to find a substitute. Promoter Mike Barrett and matchmaker Mickey Duff were faced with the unenviable task of finding substitutes in *both* top-liners, and neither lasted two rounds.

When Kevin Finnegan had to withdraw less than two days before his British middleweight title fight with champion Tony Sibson because of a back injury, Puerto Rican Willie Classen was brought in to meet Sibson in a 10-rounder.

Last year, Classen went the full route with future world champion Vito Antuofermo, but he never looked like he was going the distance on this occasion.

It could have been jet lag, of course, Classen having to make the trip from his base in New York, but whatever it was, Willie was shaken just after the start with the first real punch of the fight, a Sibson left hook.

Classen concentrated almost solely on defense, Sibson doing the stalking, then cracking home two more lefts, the second of which put Classen on the canvas. He looked most unhappy when he rose at three.

Already Classen was giving the impression that it was a lost cause, and, in spite of a lot of encouragement from his cornermen at the end of the round, he still looked apprehensive at the start of round two.

Sibson must have had all the confidence in the world at the way things were turning out, and he walked straight in, both hands working. A left to the body, and Classen backed into the ropes. Another left and he was down for the second time.

This time he took nine, and, on rising, intimated that he couldn't see properly. Sibson got home with punch after punch, one of them opening a cut by Classen's left eye.

Then over came the Sibson left hook once again, and down went Classen to be counted out as he was getting to his feet.

He was later taken to the hospital suffering from double vision.

Sibson did what he had to do in competent fashion, but many fans must have been wondering how a boxer who, not so long ago, had gone the distance with Vito Antuofermo (some reports said it was very close) should succumb so quickly.

Weights were Sibson 162¾, Classen 160¾.

A similar thing happened in the chief support, when Lotte Mwale, Commonwealth and All-African light heavyweight champion, 178½, stopped substitute Carlos Marks, Trinidad, 167¾, halfway through round two.

Only the previous month, Marks had gone the distance with former WBC world champ Marvin Johnson, in spite of his 33 years. So he shouldn't have folded so quickly against Mwale on that basis.

Marks was substituting for American Dale Grant, who couldn't be found when it was time for him to leave for Britain.

However, Marks, a middleweight, was conceding 11 pounds, and that's a lot to one of the best light heavyweights in the world. But if he didn't fancy the job, he shouldn't have taken it.

As to whether he should have been engaged at all, it's easy to be critical in hind-

sight. And a boxer with as much experience as Marks should be expected to at least put up a fight for the time he is in the ring, whether it be one round or 10.

As it was, Carlos looked crude, once swung himself off his feet altogether, was down for three in round two, and referee John Coyle intervened just after.

Mwale had merely to go through the motions to win this one in quick time, and one can understand the disapproval of the fans at the pathetic display of the Trinidad boxer.

Jimmy Flint, Wapping, 126, a fighter who always gives value for money, disposed of Leo Lopez, Dominican Republic, 129, in two rounds on the referee's intervention.

Lopez looked as if he knew his way around a ring in the opening session, but when Flint turned it on, he had no answer.

In round one, Leo showed good defense, and countered effectively at times. But Jimmy simply stalked him until he found his openings. A right hand had Lopez backing up, another right sent him reeling towards a corner, and Flint simply kept up the pressure until Leo wilted.

With Lopez no longer punching back, the bout was stopped. A competent performance by Flint.

Sylvester Mittee outscored Tony Martey, Ghana, over eight by 80-77, not losing a round; but it was the first time Mittee had been taken the full route as a pro.

In spite of the scoreline, Martey put up a good fight, and there was one period in round five when he got home with several good right hands, one of which caused a swelling on his opponent's left cheek.

Apart from this, Mittee kept out of trouble, and his right was a hurtful punch, which did slow up Martey, especially in the last couple of rounds, when Mittee put in a strong finish.

A good display by Mittee, especially as it was the first time he had boxed eight rounds.

Joe Awome, 218, beat Glen Adair, Barnstaple, 193, the referee intervening in round five after Adair had been down twice.

These two last met in the final of the British Amateur heavyweight final of 1978, with Awome winning on points over three rounds.

For three rounds, Adair was holding his own, and left jabbing to good effect. But from then on, Awome's superior weight proved the deciding factor, and Adair got weaker as the bout progressed.

Adair went to his knees, more from a pull than a punch, then hit the canvas again from a left hook. He went down a third time, from no apparent blow, got up at five, but the referee considered he had taken enough.

Jimmy Harrington, Biggleswade, 160¾, kayoed Johnny Pincham, Crawley, 156, in round four after decking him for nine.

Mickey Mapp, Charlton, 147½, outpointed debutant Jeff Aspel, Swansea, 150, over six by 60-57, not losing a round.

All in all, quite an exciting night, with promoter Mike Barrett coming to the ringside where I was seated beside the British Broadcasting Corporation radio team, who were doing a commentary, to tell them to announce over the air that he had been robbed of £10,000, which thieves had taken from one of the offices in the Royal Albert Hall.

Mike offered a £1,000 reward.

And that wasn't all. I was in the seat next to Henry Cooper, former popular British heavyweight champion, who took part in a radio interview with actress Joan Collins about the merits and demerits of boxing. You can understand that I wasn't too interested in what Henry was saying.

▲ **Midlands Sporting Club, Solihull** — George Feeney, Hartlepool, 137, reversed a previous defeat by outpointing Bingo Crooks, Wolverhampton, 135, over eight by 79-77½. Feeney was aggressive from first bell to last, and, although Crooks produced some good counterpunches, he was on the retreat for much of the fight.

Eddie Smith, Manchester, 171, also made up for a previous loss by outscoring Bonnie McKenzie, Cardiff, 175, over eight. Scoreline 79-77½. Smith's workrate was greater, but McKenzie had several good periods when he used both hands to good effect. However, the latter had a couple of warnings which may have contributed towards his defeat.

Eric Ragonisi, Shrewsbury, 132, kept his unbeaten record by drawing with Gerry O'Neill, Glasgow, 132½, over six. O'Neill took full advantage of his superior reach, with Ragonisi having his best periods when he got to close quarters.

Kelvin Smart, Caerphilly, 117, outscored Billy Straub, Glasgow, 119, by 60-58, not losing one of the six rounds. Straub revealed good ringcraft, but Smart's persistent aggression was too much for him.

Debutant Stuart Lithgoe, Hartlepool, 196½, beat southpaw Colin Flute, Tipton, 196, the bout being stopped in round four with Flite on the receiving end.

▲ **Seymour Hall, London** — Billy Aird, Liverpool, 204, still striving to win the British heavyweight title after an unsuccessful attempt some months ago, clawed his way a step nearer by outpointing Neil Malpass, Doncaster, 213, over 10 by 99-97½.

A hectic final round saw Malpass put on the pressure, and Billy looked a bit shaky at the finish. Nobbins were showered into the ring.

Aird looked completely out of character as he took the fight to his man in the opening stages. Normally he relies on his boxing skill to build up the points, but his plan of campaign certainly was effective.

Malpass seemed a little bewildered at this turn of events, and, although he got in some powerful blows, he wasn't doing enough.

Only in the last round did Malpass establish some sort of superiority, and by then it was far too late. Aird was understandably a little weary, but had no difficulty in foiling all his opponent's efforts to deck him.

Billy is now in his 34th year, and is hoping for another crack at champion John L. Gardner. Such is the lack of top contenders that he may even get it.

Dave Proud, Penge, 155¾, did well to overcome an injury to his left eye and outpoint Tiger Quaye, Clapham, 156, by 80-76½ over eight without losing a round.

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The cut didn't stop Proud from coming forward and trying to stop his man, but, when it opened again in round seven, Dave was content to coast the final session.

Coming back as a middleweight, Albert Hillman, Franborough, 160, had no difficulty in outscoring Mike Copp, Swansea, 161½, over eight by 80-77½, not losing a round.

Copp came in as a substitute, but, apart from a spell in round five, failed to get to grips with the aggressive Hillman. The latter impressed in the later stages with some effective rights to the head.

Bobby Mays, Kings Cross, 154, gained an eight-round points win over Colin Ward, Northampton, 155, scoreline 79½-78. Both had eye injuries, Ward coming forward persistently, but getting caught with left jabs and hooks from the more accurate Mays.

John Daly, St. Mary Cray, 132¼, outscored Tony Davis, Northampton, over four by 39½-39. The latter was out by the left eye in round three.

▲ **North Staffs Sporting Club, Stoke —** Lloyd Hibbert, Birmingham, 146, kept his unbeaten record by outpointing Al Stewart, Ormskirk, 145¾, over eight by 79-77. Stewart was down in rounds six, and eight.

Barry Price, Crawley, 138, outpointed Ian Murray, Birmingham, 139, over eight by 79½-78. It was Murray's fourth bout and his first defeat. Price was the more accurate, but Ian kept coming forward.

Rocky Burton, Bedworth, 177½, outscored Peter "Les" Reed, Stoke, 177, by 60-57½, over six, not losing a round.

Southpaw Mickey Kidd won a clash of debutants by stopping Barry Oakes, Norton, the referee intervening at 1:50 of the opening round after Oakes had been decked. The latter had been married a few days before the show, but this wasn't the kind of present he expected.

▲ **Top Rank Suite, Sheffield —** Herrol Graham, Sheffield, 156, kept his southaw right jab working to ouptoint Lloyd James, Finchley, 161, over eight by 80-77, not losing a round.

It was Graham's ninth win in a row as a pro. He had beaten James when they were amateurs, and skated this one.

James' rushing tactics were made to measure for Graham, who used his superior ringcraft and skill to pile up the points.

Dave Allen, Conisbrough, 146, outscored Dave Douglas, Larkhall, 147, by 79½-77½ over eight. Douglas was down twice.

Iggy Jano, Kingston, 114, gained a close points win against Eddie Glencross, Glasgow, over six by 59-58½. The verdict was disputed by some, and Glencross seemed to have finished more strongly.

Jimmy Ellis, Sheffield, 156, beat Ron Pearce, Newport, the bout being stopped in round four. Pearce got up from a knockdown, but walked away from the action.

Chris Devine, Sheffield, 189, kept his unbeaten record by outpointing Stan Carnall, Liverpool, 177, over six by 59½-58½.

▲ **Top Rank Suite, Reading —** Peter Neal, Abingdon, 146¾, successfully defended his Southern Area welter crown by narrowly outpointing Henry Rhiney, Luton, 147, over 12 by 118½-118.

There were strong protests from the Rhiney corner, as always happens in a contest as close as this one.

Neal dictated the pace of the fight throughout, but Rhiney produced a lot of good punches, and it was difficult to choose between these two in a cracking bout.

The champion just swept through Rhiney's defense in order to get to close quarters, where he banged away with both hands to the body.

When Rhiney did land, he stopped Neal in his tracks on one or two occasions, but it was only momentary. Back Peter would come until Rhiney must have wondered if the pace would ever drop.

It was aggression versus accuracy, and Rhiney's good work could be seen as marks appeared by both Neal's eyes.

This was in round five, and, in the following session, Rhiney was boxing coolly and competently to get right in to the fight after a slow start.

From Henry's point of view, the trouble was that, although he was landing effective punches, he could not stop Neal coming forward. Coming into the last round, there was still little in it, and Neal staged a good finish, banging away to the body, and by his sheer aggression preventing his opponent from doing much except defend.

A good scrap. Progress for Neal, who now hopes to be nominated for a British title fight. Disappointment for Rhiney, who, in less than a year, has lost the British and European crowns, and now failed to win the Southern Area title.

Not many boxers win their pro debuts on a clean knockout, but it happened to Dave George, Swansea, 115, who kayoed Iggy Jano, Kingston, 115½, at the very end of round four with a left hook. It was some moments before Jano recovered. Jano had already been decked in round two.

Les Dunn, Reading, another first-timer, 238, outpointed Ken March, Norwood, 198, over six by 59½-58½. Dunn's weight advantage proved the deciding factor.

Dave Southwell, Cardiff, 148½, outscored Joe Oke, Ghana, 156, over six by 59½-57½. The former was quicker to the punch and scored well with both hands. Oke was better at close quarters.

Both were marked — Southwell under the right eye and Oke bled from the mouth.

▲ **Nantwich Civic Hall —** In trouble in the opening round, Gary Lucas, Liverpool, 126, came back well to beat Mohammed Younis, Walsall, 122, who retired at the end of round five with a damaged mouth.

Lucas was saved by the bell in round one, as Younis tried desperately to land the one punch to finish off a man seemingly ready to go down.

Younis had a good second round also, but then tired, and Lucas was jabbing his way to victory when the end came.

Joe Jackson, Coventry, 158, outpointed Clifton Wallace, Birmingham, 159, by 79½-78½ over eight. Joe thus confirmed a previous victory.

Don Aagesen, Birmingham, 126, drew with Jimmy Hancock, Liverpool, over six.

▲ **20th Century Sporting Club, Southend —** George Walker, London, outscored Richard Kenyon, Halifax, over eight good rounds in a light middleweight bout. Scoreline 79½-78½.

Nobbins were tossed in after Jeff Pritchard, Merthyr, had outpointed Dave Laxen, Ruislip, over eight in a featherweight fracas.

Wally Stocking, Holborn, narrowly outpointed debutant Terry Parkinson by 59-58½ over six in a lightweight encounter.

Featherweight Chris Moorcroft, Liverpool, outpointed another debutant, Stuart Crabb, Brighton, over six by 59½-59, another close one.

Terry Welsh, Liverpool, kayoed Peter Snowshall, Burnt Oak, in round six with a right hook. It was some minutes before Snowshall left the ring.

▲ **Yorkshire Executive Sporting Club, Bradford —** Derek Nwlson, Sunderland, 140, outscored George Schofield, Liverpool, 137½, over eight by 80-77½, not losing a round.

Schofield looked in trouble in round five when he went down from a push-punch. His corner worked frantically to enable him to come up for the next round, and he was able to keep going until the end.

Terry Welsh, Liverpool, 140, outpointed Norman Morton, 138, by 79½-78½ over eight. Morton was decked in round six. A good scrap.

Stan Carnall, Liverpool, 176½, beat Nigel Savory, Leeds, 175, the referee intervening in round two. Savory was down three times.

Steve Enwright, Halifax, 124, outscored substitute Ian Murray, Manchester, 121½, over six by 59-58½. It looked as if Enwright clinched it in the last round.

▲ **Ebbw Vale Leisure Centre —** British and Commonwealth bantamweight champ Johnny Owen, 119, beat Mexican Jose Luis Garcia, 114, the referee intervening in round five.

By that time, the Mexican had been outboxed, outpunched and out-maneuvered, and, although game as they come, was completely outclassed.

George Metcalf, Liverpool, 135, reversed a previous defeat by beating Charlie Brown, Barry, 136, the bout being stopped in round one after the latter had been decked with a right to the chin.

Tyrrell Wilson, Newport, 138, looked good in outpointing Philip Morris, Ystrad Mynach, by 60-57½ over six, not losing a round. The 19-year-old Wilson boxed competently and jabbed neatly.

Bob Young, Croydon, 198, outscored Winston Allen, Merthyr, 198, over six by 59½-58½. Allen started strongly, but Young took over from round two with Winston putting in a grandstand finish.

▲ **Plaza Ballroom, Glasgow —** Substitute Bingo Crooks, Wolverhampton, 135½, made up for a previous defeat by beating Scottish lightweight champ Willie Booth, 133¾, who retired at the end of round six.

Booth afterwards went to the hospital with a suspected broken rib, which it is understood, occurred in round three.

Crooks was kept under pressure for two rounds by Booth's aggression, but he is a wily old campaigner and got into the fight in round three with effective left jabs and following right hands.

The pattern was the same throughout, with Booth attacking, and Crooks counterpunching. Crooks was probably ahead when the premature ending occurred.

Terry McKeown, Barrhead, 126, made it 10 wins in 11 bouts by outpointing Paul Keers, Hartlepool, 127, over eight hectic rounds by 79-77½. The margin looked closer.

Both had their moments, with McKeown finishing strongly.

Hugh Smith, Airdrie, 142, beat Liam Linnen, Coatbridge, 144, who retired at the end of round six when his right eye was cut. It looked as if Smith was set for victory in any case.

Mick Fellingham, Gravesend, 178, outscored Gary Jones, Stirling, 176, by the narrowest margin of 59-58½ over six. Jones was down in round four.

When they met before, the result was a draw.

▲ **National Sporting Club, London —** Charlie Malarkey, Scottish light middleweight champ, avenged a previous loss by outpointing Salvo Nuciforo, Falmouth, 154, by 79-77½ over eight.

A hard encounter, with Nuciforo cut by the right eye in the final round yet still trying to overcome his opponent. Malarkey bled from the nose, but produced the cleaner work.

George Danahar, Bethnal Green, 161, comfortably outpointed Chris Coady, Manchester, 159, over eight by 78½-77½.

The taller Danahar took full advantage of his physical advantages, kept his jab working, and managed to avoid several of his opponent's right hooks. But some did get through, and he was forced to cover up.

Dennis Sullivan, Plymouth, 146, defeated Tommy Thomas, Tottenham, 144, the referee intervening halfway through the sixth and final round with Thomas taking punishment.

Tim Maloney, Brighton, 138, impressed in outscoring Brian Clemow Camborne, 140, over six by 59½-58½.

▲ **World Sporting Club, London —** Substitute Roy Gumbs, Tottenham, 167, conceded seven pounds and still stopped Bonny McKenzie, Cardiff, 174, the referee intervening in round three with McKenzie defenseless.

McKenzie was decked in round one, but got up to box coolly and get home with some useful jabs, taking the fight to his opponent. The Cardiff man had a good second round, but, when Gumbs raised the pace, Bonny just could not cope, and he was again decked from a right hand.

After he had gone down a third time, the bout was stopped.

Vernon Penprase, Plymouth, 127½, beat Lee Graham, Finchley, who retired at the end of round five suffering from cramp.

At that point, Penprase was on top. He had shaken his man severely in round four with a left hook.

Tim Moloney, Brighton, 138, outscored Wally Stocking, Isleworth, 139, over six by 59-58. Moloney deserved his victory, but had to withstand a furious last-round assault from Stocking, who finished the stronger of the two.

Paul Jones, Torquay, 152, beat Dave Southwell, Cardiff, 149, the bout being stopped in round three after Southwell had gone out of the ring from a right cross. Dave had opened well, but Jones' body punching turned the scales.

Julian Beaustead, Torquay, 140, kayoed Terry Parkinson, Brighton, 138, in round three with a left hook.

▲ **Wolverhampton Sporting Club —** Granville Allen, Wednesbury, 139½, outpointed Jeff Pritchard, New Tredegar, 137¾, over eight by 79-77½.

A good scrap, with Allen boxing well in the early stages against an aggressive opponent, but sustaining a cut by the on

COMMONWEALTH RATINGS

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
John L. Gardner
1. Trevor Berbick (C)
2. Billy Aird (E)
3. Ngozika Ekwelum (N)
4. Tommy Kiely (E)
5. Les Stevens (E)
6. Tony Moore (E)
7. Steve Aczel (A)
8. George Chuvalo (C)
9. Gordon Ferris (I)
10. David Pearce (W)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champion
Lotte Mwale (Z)
1. John Conteh (E)
2. Mustapha Wassaja (U)
3. David Conteh (E)
4. Bunny Johnson (E)
5. Gary Summerhays (C)
6. Tony Mundine (A)
7. Ernie Barr (B)
8. Al Gattling (A)
9. Dennis Andries (E)
10. Stan Bogovic (A)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Ayub Kalule (U)
1. Alan Minter (E)
2. Kevin Finnegan (E)
3. Tony Sibson (E)
4. Fernand Marcotte (C)
5. Eddie Melo (C)
6. Frankie Lucas (St. Vin.)
7. Scorpion Ofosu (G)
8. Monty Betham (NZ)
9. Wally Carr (A)
10. Al Korovou (A)

LIGHT MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Kenny Bristol (Gu)
1. Maurice Hope (An)
2. Rocky Mattioli (A)
3. Pat Thomas (St. Kitts)
4. Jimmy Batten (E)
5. Elisha Obed (B)
6. Prince Rodney (E)
7. Dave Proud (E)
8. Neil Pattel (A)
9. Steve Hopkin (E)
10. Robbie Davies (E)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion
Clyde Gray (C)
1. Dave Green (E)
2. Chris Clarke (C)
3. Hector Thompson (A)
4. Josef Nsubuga (U)
5. Kirkland Laing (E)
6. Sakarai Ve (Fiji)
7. Eddie Marcelle (T)
8. Steve Dennis (A)
9. Eddie Buttons (A)
10. Colin Jones (W)

LIGHT WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion
Obisia Nwankpa (N)
1. Lennox Blackmoore (Gu)
2. Jeff Malcolm (A)
3. Clinton McKenzie (E)
4. Colin Powers (E)
5. Des Morrison (E)
6. Frank Ropis (A)
7. Andy Broome (A)
8. Sylvester Mittee (St. Lucia)
9. Fitzroy Giuseppe (T)
10. Joey Gibilisco (A)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Hogan Jimoh (N)
1. Jim Watt (S)
2. Charlie Nash (I)
3. Claude Noel (T)
4. Ralph Racine (C)
5. Ray Cattouse (E)
6. Cornelius Boza-Edwards (U)
7. Nick Furlano (C)
8. Gaetan Hart (C)
9. John Muwunga (U)
10. Dave McCabe (S)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Eddie Ndukwu (N)
1. Pat Cowdell (E)
2. Dave Needham (E)
3. Jimmy Flint (E)
4. Patrick Forde (Gu)
5. Les Pickett (W)
6. Brian Roberts (A)
7. Nick LoBianco (A)
8. Roger Henry (A)
9. Lindsay Roberts (A)
10. Vernon Pernprase (E)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Johnny Owen (W)
1. Paul Ferreri (A)
2. Sulley Shittu (G)
3. John Feeney (E)
4. Dave Smith (E)
5. Jim Bowen (A)
6. Charlie Brown (A)
7. Patrick Burns (A)
8. Glenn Walsh (A)
9. Dave Larmour (I)
10. Wayne Evans (E)

FLYWEIGHTS
Championship
Vacant
1. Charlie Magri (E)
2. Pedro Solo (A)
3. Ray Amoo (N)
4. Roger Richens (A)
5. Neil McLaughlin (I)
6. Garry Bice (A)
7. Dave George (W)
8. Junior Thompson (A)
9. John Hipwell (A)
10. Bobby Williams (A)

John Aba (Papua, New Guinea) is the junior lightweight champion. Contenders: Kazeem Armah (N), Mike Drayton (T), Larry Velesini (A), David Kotey (G).

Legend: (An) Antigua; (A) Australia; (B) Bahamas; (C) Canada; (D) Dominica; (E) England; (Fiji) Fiji Islands; (G) Ghana; (Gu) Guyana; (In) India; (I) Ireland; (J) Jamaica; (M) Malta; (N) Nigeria; (NZ) New Zealand; (S) Scotland; (To) Tonga; (T) Trinidad; (U) Uganda; (W) Wales; (Z) Zambia.

the forehead in round three from a clash of heads.

Brinley Jones, Swansea, 117, drew with George Bailey, Bradford, 115½, over eight. Jones was down briefly in round seven, and was marked under the right eye.

Ian Murray, Birmingham, 138½, was good value for his six-round points win over Tyrrell Wilson, Newport, 135, scoreline 59½-58. Wilson, however, wouldn't give up and landed one or two useful right uppercuts.

Debutant Jarvis Greenidge, Birmingham, 130, outscored Pat Devanney, Bradford, 132, by 60-57½, not losing a round. Pat made the pace from first bell to last.

▲ Blazers Club, Windsor — Lloyd Lee, Harlesden, 146½, outpointed a worthy substitute in Lee Hartshorn, Manchester, 146, over eight by 79½-77.

Lee dominated the early exchanges with an accurate left jab, but Hartshorn persevered and got back into the fight from the third.

Round four was hectic, with Hartshorn nearly going out of the ring, then coming right back to chase his man with hefty right hands to the head.

Unfortunately, Hartshorn couldn't quite stand the fierce pace, and he went down briefly in round six, also in the following session. By that time, Lloyd was comfortably ahead.

Boyd Farrar, Hayes, made up for a previous defeat by outpointing Lloyd James, Finchley, 168, over eight by 80-76, not losing a round. Farrar was the more accurate and revealed good ringcraft. James tried switching from southpaw to orthodox, but it didn't work.

Len Wint, Thamesmead, 146½, kayoed John Chard, Newport, 155½, in the latter part of round one with a right to the jaw.

Steve Cleak, Porthcawl, 130, outpointed Selvin Bell, Manchester, 130 by 59½-58½ over six. Bell was down in round four.

▲ Anglo-American Sporting Club, Liverpool — Lawrence Williams, Manchester, 133, improved after a sluggish start to outpoint Barry Price, Crawley, over eight by 79½-77½.

From round four, Williams stepped up the pace and his constant aggression was too much for Price, who had made a good start.

Dave Campbell, Enniskillen, 140, outpointed Vernon Van Reil, Tottenham, 139, over six by the narrowest margin of 59-58½. Campbell showed more initiative, and his body punching was impressive.

Van Reil had his best moments in the middle rounds with some hefty rights to the face, but was handicapped by a swelling around the left eye.

Campbell was cut by the left eye, but not until the final round.

Doug Jones, Swansea, 161, beat Joe Hannaford, Bootle, 161½, the bout being stopped in round two after the latter had been cut under the left eye and also down for six.

Hannaford afterwards announced his retirement from the ring.

Paul Jones, Torquay, 154, outscored Winston Davies, Leicester, 156, by the narrow margin of 59-58½ over six, a verdict that did not meet with unanimous approval.

Both were down, Jones in round two, Davies in the following session, then Jones again in the same round. And both used their right hands to good effect to make it an exciting scrap.

▲ Anglo-American Sporting Club, Manchester — Kevin Quinn, Manchester, outscored Phil Lewis, Liverpool, in a light welter bout by 79½-78 over eight. Quinn was decked in round five, but got up before a count could be started, and after that he boxed competently for a comfortable victory.

Adey Allen, Leicester, 146, outpointed Billy Ahearne, Manchester, 147, over eight by 79-78½. A narrow margin, and a bout that earned nobbins from appreciative fans. After a slowish start, Allen boxed coolly and used his left jab to edge his way in front.

Steve Ward, Leicester, 145½, gained a close one over Kevin Walsh, Manchester, 144, scoreline 59½-59 over six. Walsh's strong finish just failed to make up the leeway.

Wayne Barker, Manchester, 156, outscored Jimmy Ellis, 155½, over six by 59-58½, the third close verdict of the evening's entertainment. The latter and his mentors disputed the result.

▲ St. Andrew's Sporting Club, Glasgow — Substitute Chris Sanigar, Bristol, 137½, outgamed Chris Waler, Sheffield, 137½, over eight by 79-78. Walker was down in round one, also twice in round seven, and, although he was the better boxer, it was not enough against the hard punching Sanigar.

Billy Straub, Motherwell, 118, outpointed George Bailey, Bradford, 118, over eight by 79½-77. A convincing win, and the third for Billy as a pro.

Mick Fellingham, Greenock, 176, gained his second victory within a week and didn't lose a round in outpointing Trevor Kerr, Fivemiletown, 173, over six by 60-58½.

Debutant Jim McKeown, Barrhead, 132, outpointed Pat Devanney, Bradford, 131½, over six.

▲ Gala Baths, West Bromwich — Former British light welter champ Joey Singleton, Liverpool, 146, didn't find it easy to outpoint Achille Mitchell over eight by 79-78½.

Singleton was out by the left eye in round two, but used his celebrated left hand to keep his man at bay. The referee inspected the injury in round five, but allowed the contest to continue.

At that stage, Mitchell, encouraged by his opponent's handicap, piled on the pressure and jabbed and hooked to good effect. However, Singleton put in a grandstand finish and got the referee's nod.

Brian Huckfield, Tipton, the Midlands Area heavyweight champ, 199, beat Derek Simpson, 210, who was disqualified in round seven after being warned on several occasions. Too many clinches, not a good fight to watch, with Huckfield seemingly on the way to victory.

Roger Guest, Dudley, 142, beat Dai Davies, Swansea, 147, who retired at the end of round three with a damaged left thumb. Davies had taken a deal of punishment and bled from the nose.

Nobbins came into the ring after Eric Ragonisi, Shrewsbury, 131½, outscored Gerry O'Neill, Glasgow, 131, by 79-78 over eight. When they met before the result was a draw, but this time Eric deserved the verdict in a hectic encounter.

Jeff Aspel, Swansea, 148, beat Ricky Daniels, Birmingham, 146, the referee intervening in round five with Daniels on the receiving end after a promising start.

Ray Price, Swansea, 133, kayoed debutant Kid Curtis, 132½, in round two with a cluster of right hands. Curtis just failed to beat the count.

▲ Lewisham Concert Hall, London — A sensational knockout in the eighth and final round brought revenge for Alex Tompkins, 173, over Keith Bussey, Camberwell, 175, when they met two years earlier, Bussey had won on points.

Tompkins kept on the attack throughout, using both hands to keep his man on the retreat. But Bussey rallied in fine style, and the verdict looked in doubt when Alex brought over a short right to the jaw. Keith tried hard to beat the count, but just failed.

Alan Lamb, Lancaster debutant, 137½, bet Gary Ball, Putney, the bout being stopped in round six after he had shaken his man with right hands to the head.

Another debutant, Ivor Jones, Holloway, 119½, also won his first fight by stopping Carl Gaynor, Manchester, 119, the referee intervening in round three with Gaynor taking punishment. A good fight to watch, with a lot of leather being exchanged.

Jeff Lee, Millwall, 148½, outpointed Dave Aspil, Swindon, 144¾, over six by 59½-58½. Aspil was having his first fight, and Lee was cut by both eyes.

Kenny March, Lewisham, 192, outscored Martin Nee, Paddington, 211, over six.

▲ Wembley Conference Centre — Southpaw Alan Minter outpointed American Doug Demmings over 10 by 100-95, not losing a round. But Demmings contested it all the way, and it was just the sort of fight that Minter needed.

Mind you, Alan could have done without a swelling under the eye, but, apart from that, there were no cuts. So everything went according to plan, and afterwards Minter paid tribute to his opponent over the ring microphone.

Demmings finished with a cut left ear and a cut mouth, but certainly earned his money.

The American was down in round four and looked to be in dire trouble when the bell ended the round. There were also times when he pretended to be hurt by wobbling at the knees, but it didn't do him any good.

Minter tried hard to put his man down again, but without success, and he looked frustrated as his efforts were to no avail. In the early stages, Demmings didn't mind standing still and trading punches, but in the later rounds he back-pedalled a lot and clinched as Minter moved in.

It seemed that, in the last couple of rounds, Alan was content to coast, knowing his lead was an impregnable one. Demmings gallantly saw it through, and received a good ovation for his efforts.

Incidentally, Minter gave up his European title before the fight in order to concentrate on his World title campaign.

Weights — Minter 161¼ and Demmings 156½.

European flyweight champion Charlie Magri, 113¼, beat Mexican Candalario Iglesias, 111½, the bout being stopped in round three with the Mexican taking punishment on the ropes.

There was some dissention with this decision, as Iglesias had not been decked. But when a boxer isn't hitting back the referee's duty seems obvious.

Magri was just getting into his stride and every punch was a hurtful one. Charlie continues to win, although the opposition is getting tougher all the time. For instance, in his previous contest, Iglesias had gone the distance with Adelaido Galindo. On this basis, Magri's performance was an impressive one.

When two boxers have sparred together as long as Lotte Mwale, Zambia, 173½, and Bunny Johnson, 175½, there is always a danger of a stalemate situation. After all, they must know each other's moves by heart.

Commonwealth and All-African champion Mwale won this one by 99-97½, over 10, which looked about right. British titleholder Johnson wasn't happy about the verdict and it was somewhat surprising that he seemed to finish stronger than his younger opponent.

With Mwale now rated in some quarters as number three contender for the world title, and Johnson not in the first 15, the former was thought to be on a good thing. He started like a whirlwind, but slowed considerably in the later rounds.

Johnson then launched an attack of his own, and kept up the pressure until the close, with Mwale seemingly not knowing how to cope with this situation.

Mwale won by a three-round margin, but it is difficult to explain how and why Mwale lost his way in the closing rounds.

Southern Area lightweight champion Ray Cattouse, 135½, came back well after a long lay-off to beat Frenchman Georges Cotin, 136½, the referee intervening in round one when Cotin was under tremendous pressure.

By a coincidence, Cotin's only previous appearance in Britain ended in a one-round defeat by Cornelius Boza-Edwards.

Cattouse chased his man all over the ring, and a left hook cut Cotin's mouth before the stoppage came.

Joe Awome, Golders Green, 215½, was decked in round two, but got up to stop Ricky James, Rugby, 196, in round four.

Awome was caught by a right hook and floored, but got up before a count could be started, and seemed unaffected. His heavy right hands slowed up James, who was sent part-way through the ropes by one of these punches.

As Awome came in, both hands blazing, the referee intervened.

Charm Chiteule, Zambia, 127½, outscored Brian Snagg, Liverpool, 130, over six by 59½-58. Snagg was decked in round one, but rose to fight back in fine style. Chiteule countered well and was the cleaner puncher. Proof of this was Snagg's swelling under the left eye and his nose-bleed.

▲ Anglo-American Sporting Club, London — Steve Hopkin, Ely, 156½, beat Billy Lauder, Bonnyrigg, 158, who retired at the end of round five with an injured left ear.

Hopkin's body attacks proved to be too much for his southpaw opponent, and Lauder was forced to hang on for survival in that fifth round.

Norman Morton, Newcastle, 138, drew with Vernon Van Riel, Tottenham, 142, over eight. Too much holding spoiled the later rounds.

John F. Kennedy, Draycott, 148¾, made it four in a row by outpointing Manny Romain, Kennington, 148¾, over six by 59½-58. A hectic encounter, with Kennedy getting an injury by the left eye, and Romain's right eye severely swollen.

Bill Smith, Newcastle, 132, drew with Ray Price, Swansea, 134, over four fast rounds which earned the boxers a share of nobbins. The taller Price had to contend with an aggressive opponent, and the verdict looked absolutely right.

▲ Evesham Sporting Club — Lloyd Hibbert, Birmingham, 145, kept his unbeaten certificate by outscoring Gary Cooper, Lymington, 149, over eight by 80-79, not losing a round.

Cooper thus lost his own unbeaten record, but there was no doubt as to the winner. Hibbert kept up a constant pressure, forsaking his usual jabbing style, and it worked to perfection.

Lloyd hooked and swung from both hands, and Cooper spent so much time in trying to abate the storm that he had little chance of doing much offensive work himself.

Jeff Pritchard, New Tredegar, 136½, outpointed Ian Murray, Birmingham, 144, over six, by 59½-59, but the margin looked greater. Pritchard revealed good ringcraft, and punched too quickly for his opponent.

Billy Keen, Bournemouth, 180, narrowly outscored Steve Babbs, Swansea, 169, over six by 59½-59. Keen kept on the attack, and, although Babbs delivered some good punches, the former's superior work rate saw him home.

Jarvis Greenidge, Birmingham, 132½, outpointed Steve Simms, Newport, 136, over six.

▲ Great International Sporting Club, Nottingham — Tom Collins, Leeds, 180, beat Danny Miller, Manchester, the bout being stopped in round seven after Miller had been decked.

Collins pressed forward the whole time, until Miller finally succumbed and was taking punishment without reply.

Don George, Swansea, 129½, outpointed Selvyn Bell, Manchester, 130, over six by 60-56½, not losing a round. Bell was down twice.

Walter Clayton, Sheffield, 138, made a fine start by beating Wally Stocking, Holborn, 138, the referee intervening in round four. Stocking bled from the nose, but, to his credit, remained upright.

Nobbins greeted the points victory of Winston Davies, Leicester, 157, over Harry Watson, Worksop, 160, in their six-rounder. Scoreline 59½-59. A great little bout to watch.

▲ National Sporting Club, London — Southern Area bantam champion Dave Smith outscored veteran Glyn Davies, Llanelli, holder of the Welsh title, over eight by 78½-78. Both were inside 120.

A close one, with Davies doing well in the early stages, and Smith improving as the fight progressed. The latter's all-out assaults in the final rounds clinched it for him.

Roger Guest, Dudley, outpointed Derek Nelson, Sunderland, over eight in a light welter bout.

Debutant Martin Francis, London, punched impressively to kayo Mick Lock, Croydon, with a right hook as the bell ended round two. It was minutes before Lock was able to leave the ring.

Joe Mills outscored Steve Parker, Nottingham, over six in a lightweight contest.

▲ National Sporting Club, London — Dave Owens, Castleford, 158½, kept his Central Area middleweight crown by beating Jimmy Pickard, Pudsey, 159, the referee intervening in round four after Pickard had been decked.

Gordon Stacey, Battersea, kayoed Mohammed Ali, Stonebridge, in round six, and again it was minutes before the latter was able to leave the ring.

Sylvester Gordon, Peckham, drew with Gary Peace, Newport, over eight in a light welter contest.

▲ Norwood Rooms, Norwich — Joe Oke, Ghana, 154, outpointed Alan Cable, Croydon, 154, over eight with the cash customers tossing in nobbins in appreciation of a fine scrap.

Liam Coleman, Leeds, 171, outscored George Lewis, Battersea, 166, over eight. The latter was returning after a long lay-off and faded in the closing rounds.

Earl Edwards, Clapham, 160, also won on points against Curtis Marsh, Hackney, 160, by 79-78 over eight.

Robert Hepburn, Norwich, 122, drew with Stuart crabb, Brighton, 124, over six.

Debutant Neil Brown, 132, outpointed John Henry, Leicester, 130½, over four by 39½-39.

▲ Club Double Diamond, Caerphilly — Colin Jones, Gorseinon, 147, earned his place as one of the top contenders for the British welter crown by beating Joey Mack, Birmingham, 144½, the bout being stopped in round 10 after Mack had been down *ten* times.

It was a peculiar contest. Although Mack kept going down and up like a yo-yo, he never seemed in great difficulty. Consequently, referee Harry Gibbs rightly allowed the contest to proceed as far as the 10th.

In round six, for instance, Mack was down on *five* occasions.

Eventually, referee Gibbs adjudged that enough was enough, and Jones underlined his potential as a future champion.

David Pearce, Newport, 195, beat Denton Ruddock Camberwell, 200, the bout being stopped in round seven when Ruddock was cut by the left eye and was taking punishment. Pearce thus remains unbeaten in nine bouts, and is now among the top six heavyweight contenders in the country.

Kelvin Smart, Caerphilly, 115, outscored Brinley Jones, Gorseinon, 118, over six by 60-57½, not losing a round

Ray Price, Swansea, 135, drew with Philip Morris, Cefn Hengoed, 141, over six.

Gary Pearce, Newport, 144, outpointed Sylvester Gordon, London, 143, over eight by 79-77.

▲ Wolverhampton Civic Hall — Paul Chance kept his unbeaten record and also annexed the Midlands Area lightweight title by narrowly outpointing champion Des Gwilliam over 10. The scoreline of 98½-98 seemed to flatter Des.

Chance kept on the attack throughout, in spite of some good counterpunching from Gwilliam.

James Cooke, Coventry, was another to retain his unbeaten certificate by beating veteran Bingo Crooks, Wolverhampton, 134½, who was disqualified for "ungentlemanly conduct" in round seven.

Crooks looked to throw a punch as he was being warned by the referee for misuse of the head. It was his third warning.

Cooke had facial cuts, but seemed on the way to victory. Crooks had a swelling by the left eye.

Mick Bell, Leicester, beat Jeff Pritchard, New Tredegar, the bout being stopped in just 40 seconds after a clash of heads that produced a cut over Pritchard's right eye. Both scaled 136.

Johnny Burns, Birmingham, 138½, drew with Micky Baker, 136, over eight. Burns seemed unlucky not to get the verdict.

Roy Skeldon, Tipton, 176, outscored Mick Fellingham, Gravesend, 176, over six by 60-57½, and, although Skeldon didn't lose a round, it was a good crowd pleaser that brought nobbins from enthusiastic fans.

Gary Newell, Wolverhampton, 146, kayoed Jeff Aspel, Swansea, 145, with a left to the body in round four.

▲ **Carn Brea Centre, Camborne** — Professional boxing returned to the county of Cornwall after a quarter of a century, thanks to local-born promoters Roger Moyle and Neil Roberts, and a local boxer won the top-liner when Salvo Nuciforo, 157,, beat Richard Kenyon, Halifax, 157½. The referee intervened in round five.

Vernon Penprase, Plymouth, 128, outpointed Dave Laxen, Ruislip, 129, over eight by 79½-78. Penprase overcame the handicap of a cut by the left eye. This was his 11th win in 15 bouts.

Dennis Sullivan, 144, outscored Terry Welch, Liverpool, 147, over six by 60-58, not losing a round. Welch was decked in round five.

Dave Sullivan, younger brother of Dennis, retired at the end of round three against John Ridgman, 149. Dave had an eye injury. Both were making their pro debuts.

Irishman Dave Campbell, 140½, outpointed Mike Clemow, Camborne, 140, over six by 60-58½, not losing a round.

▲ **Arden Sporting Club, Birmingham** — Lawrence Williams, 18-year-old Manchester lightweight prospect, 135, outscored Central Area champion Najib Daho, Manchester, 134, over eight by 79-77½.

Daho started fast, but Williams finished stronger.

Tyrrel Wilson, Newport, 135, outpointed John Lindo, Bradford, 138, over six by 59-58½. In round four, Wilson complained of pains in his right arm, whereupon the referee took him to a neutral corner and persuaded him to continue.

However, this still appeared to be a handicap, and Wilson managed to scrape home by the margin of one round, boxing the last two sessions using the left hand only.

Dave Douglas, Larkhall, 148, drew with Chris Christian, Stoke Newington, 150, over six.

Stuart Lithgoe, Hartlepool, 195, beat Les Dunn, Reading, 234, who retired at the end of round four with a cut by the left eye.

▲ **Hove Town Hall** — Albert Hillman, Farnborough, stopped Terry Knight, Brighton, in round six of a middleweight bout. A right hand floored Knight. He rose unsteadily, reeled against the ropes and the referee indicated that it was all over.

Tim Maloney, Brighton, 135, outscored Tony Davis, St. Mary Cray, 134, over four by 40-38, winning every round.

Shaun Chalcraft, Crawley, 174¾, beat Lloyd James, Finchley, 163½, the referee intervening in round five with James taking punishment.

Peter Simon, Battersea, 165, beat Mickey Walker, Brighton, 162, the bout being stopped in round four. Simon got up from a third-round knockdown.

Tony Britton, Lewisham, 155¾, was another who didn't lose a round in outpointing Steve Henty, Brighton, 155½, over six by 60-58.

▲ **Barnsley Civic Hall** — Herold Graham, Retford, 152, kept his one hundred per cent record by beating Billy Ahearne, Manchester, 156, the referee intervening in round three after Ahearne had been down.

Walter Clayton, Sheffield, 137, outscored Duncan Hamilton, Cambuslang, 136, over six by 59-58½. Jim McEwan, Glasgow, 130, outpointed Winston Ho Shing, Sheffield, 129, also by the narrow margin of 59-58½.

Wayne Barker, Manchester, 152, gained a six-round points verdict over Joey Saunders, Nottingham, 156, by 60-58, not losing a round.

AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

TRANSVAAL

▲ **PRETORIA — Loftus Versveld Stadium — Supporting bouts on the John Tate-Gerrie Coetzee WBA heavyweight championship card:**

Kallie Knoetze got a boxing lesson from American Randy Stephens in the first two rounds of their heavyweight fight, but Knoetze came back in the third round to knock Stephens through the ropes with a perfectly timed left hook. Stephens employed left hooks to win the first round, coupled with left jabs and straight rights. Knoetze was outboxed and missed often, but did land one hard punch. In the second round, Stephens really opened up and Knoetze was shaken with at least three left hooks. It was a short right that had the South African reeling, but Knoetze countered with a looping right that put Stephens on the run. In the third, Knoetze shot a series of left jabs, then right crosses, but took a left that had no effect. He then maneuvered Stephens into a neutral corner and threw leather with both hands. A gap in Stephens' defense showed and Knoetze hit him with a hard right followed by a left hook. Randy went down and referee Stan Christodoulou counted him out.

Ruben (Hector) Pardo of the Argentine defeated South African junior middleweight champ Gert Steyn when Steyn was forced to retire at the end of the fourth round with a badly cut left eye. The cut was opened in the third round by the stitching of a glove, and the fight was just beginning to be a thriller. Steyn was ahead at the closure through the use of his left jab to the head and some stinging right crosses, but Pardo was coming into his own with a left that was finding the target.

Walter Santemore of the Tate camp was well on the way to winning his heavyweight clash with Jimmy Abbott when his left eye was cut in the third round. The cut worsened, and the fight was stopped in the sixth and last round. Abbott winning on a TKO. It was bad luck for the American, who had outboxed Abbott and taunted the South African to make a fight out of it.

Harold Volbrecht kept his South African welterweight title by outpointing David "Baby Lux" Kambule over 12 rounds. Volbrecht, who showed no ill effects from his recent car accident, had Kambule down in the second, third, sixth, and seventh rounds. Kambule only managed to win one of the sessions, and was out hit, out boxed, out thought, and out punched. It was Volbrecht's sustained body attack that had Kambule on the retreat, while body blows contributed to the knockdowns. Kambule's left eye was badly swollen from the sixth round and this hampered him.

American Dwain Bonds outpointed crude but willing Robbie Williams in a six-round heavyweight bout. Bonds used his left jab to effect and Williams missed often with wild blows. The fight was marred by much holding and clinching. A hard left hook by Bonds in the third had Williams in trouble, but he weathered the storm.

Unbeaten, promising light heavyweight Theunis Kok scored a first round knockout over Mervin Smit. Smit was first dropped with a left hook to the side of the head, but regained his feet until another left hook put him down. It was several minutes before he recovered and left the ring.

South African featherweight champion Bashew Sibaca scored a clear six-round points victory over Zimbabwe-Rhodesian champion Jey Nardo.

ED CLARK

ORIENT

MIHARA-JOO
OPBF Junior Middleweight Title

TOKYO, JAPAN — Undefeated Tadashi Mihara scored his eighth knockout in as many bouts, polishing off sturdy Korean veteran Ho Joo midway in the third round of their scheduled 12-round OPBF junior middleweight title bout.

About 1,600 spectators at Korakuen Hall saw Mihara finish Joo with a well-timed left hook to the jaw following a straight right to the chin. Joo, the challenger, went down flat. His head caught on the bottom rope and he was counted out by U.S. referee Paul Field.

It was Mihara's second defense of the OPBF (Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation) junior middleweight crown. He won it by demolishing Jae-Keun Yim in five rounds on April 26. Ho Joo's record dropped to 15-3-2 with eight kayoes. The 24-year-old Mihara, who stands 5'10,'' is piloted by former Oriental flyweight boss Hitoshi Misako. Both Mihara and Joo entered the ring at 154, the class limit.

Joo, 27, had held the OPBF title. He failed to win the world championship in a December 13, 1978 fight with Masashi Kudo, dropping a 15-round split verdict.

Joo had been inactive since his quick kayo at the hands of Ayub Kalule on February 15. Mihara, ex-amateur champ of Japan, was as cautious as Joo, and both were ordered to fight harder by the referee in round two.

In round three, Mihara threw his first combination of the bout, sending his much ballyhooed challenger into dreamland.

Tadashi's manager, Hitoshi Misako, is planning to negotiate a title match for him against the winner of the Maurice Hope-Rocky Mattioli WBC junior middleweight championship rematch.

Mihara is a good prospect who throws sharp, straight punches, but your reporter has seen too many less experienced Japanese challengers beaten by veteran world champs. Mihara had better face more opponents before he takes a crack at a world title.

We have not yet seen Mihara take strong shots, nor seen him go over seven rounds. His close range attack and defense are still question marks.

That is your writer's opinion, although many view Mihara as the man to beat Ayub Kalule, who had won Masashi Kudo's world junior middleweight crown the day before Mihara met Ho Joo.

In the semi-final, undefeated junior lightweight Gen Tosa, 130, survived a first round knockdown and went on to take an eight-round unanimous decision over Tomio Nakamura, 129, the JBC's ninth ranked contender. It was the sixth pro bout for Tosa, a southpaw.

The card was presented by Misako Promotions and telecast through Fuji Television, Tokyo.

JAPAN

▲ **SENDAI CITY — Miyagi Sports Center** — Japanese bantamweight champion Hurricane Teru, 118, utilized his fast left hand, battered ex-champ Kosei Anan, 118, almost at will, and won a lopsided unanimous decision in 10 rounds. Anan simply couldn't catch Teru, who, steadily piling up points, overwhelmed Kosei with a barrage of punches in round seven and downed him at the ropes for a compulsory eight-count. It was the 27-year-old Teru's first defense and his 29th win against eight defeats and three draws. Anan's record dropped to 17-4-2.

In a companion 1p, Hikaru Tomonari, 132, a recent winner over OPBF featherweight king Royal Kobayashi, knocked out Gen Akutsu, 131¾, with a vicious uppercut to the chin in 1:33 of the third round.

In a scheduled six-round featherweight bout, Minoru Nanjo polished off Shigeru Okusa in the opening session.

▲ **TOKYO — Korakuen Hall** — Hard punching Johnny Fujimoto, the JBC's sixth-ranked featherweight at 125½, survived a second-round knockdown, came back hard with heavy combos, and kayoed Hideharu Mitsui, 124, in 2:03 of the sixth round before 1,200 spectators.

Mitsui, this year's *Shinjin-o* (Novice King) tournament winner, managed to get inside Jhonny's guard, which was wide open, but absorbed a lot of punishment and ran out of gas. Referee Uchida tolled the fatal 10 on Mitsui's second trip to the canvas.

Fujimoto, 24, is now 13-4-2 with 10 knockouts. He needs to improve his defense.

Toshikazu Higa, 108¾, won a shutout unanimous decision over Masao Sugawara, 10i¼, an awkward stylist, six. Takashi Kaneda, 138¾, won a close but unanimous decision over Nobutaka Kuwada, 140, six.

▲ **AIZU WAKAMATSU CITY** — Tsutomu Matsuo, 155½, won the Japanese middleweight title when Katsuo Esashi, 159¼, the defending champ, was retired at the end of the third round of their scheduled 10-round contest. Matsuo was a sudden substitute for Caesar Sasaki, the JBC's top-ranked contender, who had suffered a rib injury in his final sparring sessions. Sasaki had knocked out Esashi earlier.

No sooner had the bout begun when Matsuo landed a strong one-two to Esashi's face. The champ went down and sprained his ankle in the process, but managed to beat the count. Esashi went on, but the referee declared a halt between the third and fourth rounds.

Matsuo, the new champ, is 26 years old and has a record of 14-6-3 with 12 knockouts. He had challenged Noboru Hatakeyama for the Japanese junior welterweight title five months before the Esashi bout, but was stopped in the ninth round.

▲ **TOKYO — Korakuen Hall** — Former OPBF bantamweight champion Yung-Shik Kim, 120¾, won a majority decision over Isao Okahashi, 121¼, 10. The official scoresheets were as follows: referee Tezaki 99-97, judges Shimakawa and Kanaya, 100-97 and 98-98, respectively.

Okahashi, 22 years old, was completely bewildered by Kim's jolting attack and failed to outjab him. Okahashi was exhausted in the later rounds. His record is 13-9-1 with 11 kayoes.

In the first scheduled 10-rounder, Keisuke Yuguchi, 108, got off the canvas in the fifth round, fought back desperately, and won a unanimous decision over Tsugumasa Toma, 107¼, the JBC's third-ranked junior flyweight. Toma looked overconfident, due, perhaps, to his previous win over Yuguchi. He threw wild punches and was wide open for his opponent's short combinations. This was Toma's first appearance since his TKO loss to Sang-Il Chung for the OPBF junior flyweight crown.

There were eight four rounders.

▲ **TOKYO — Korakuen Hall** — Shuichi Isogami, 116¼, the WBC's fourth-ranked bantamweight, was held to a disputed majority draw by Jiro Takada, 116¾, although the latter looked like a slight winner after the 10 rounds were over. Isogami, with a record of 20-1-2 with 14 kayoes, is scheduled to meet the winner of the WBC bantamweight title rematch between Lupe Pin-

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___ 4249 - Budget Platform Kit	54.00	40.50
		(plus freight)

STRIKING BAG:	List	KO Price
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___ 4201 - Professional leather speed bag	44.00	33.00
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___ 4210 - Capeskin speed bag	34.00	25.50
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___ 2514 - Top pro 14oz. training glove	144.00/set (4 gloves)	108.00
___ 2516 - Top pro 16oz. training glove	150.00/set (4 gloves)	112.50
___ 2412 - Professional 12oz. training glove	90.00/pr	67.50
___ 2414 - Professional 14oz. training glove	94.00/pr	70.50
___ 2416 - Professional 16oz. training glove	98.00/pr	73.50

SKIP ROPES:	List	KO Price
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tor and Carlos Zarate.

Some of the 2,000 fans jeered the decision and threw waste papers into the ring. The scoring was as follows: referee Morita and judge Tezaki, both 98-98; judge Ugo 100-97, Takada.

It was the poorest performance of Isogami's career. An energetic left hooker, his wild swings were easily averted by Takada's tight guard and faster footwork. Takada, in fact, almost floored Isogami with a beautiful one-two to the latter's jaw in the fourth session. Takada tossed straight, sharp blows, winning the seventh round by a slight margin. Isogami realized he was behind on points, and chased Takada from the eighth round on.

The last three rounds were furious. Isogami kept boring in with his whirlwind attack while Takada concentrated on stinging lefts and one-two combos. Isogami, three years Takada's junior, won the ninth round on aggressiveness. Your reporter scored the bout 99-98 in favor of Takada.

It was Takada's first bout as a bantamweight. He'd challenged world flyweight champ Miguel Canto on August 23, 1975, being stopped in the 11th round.

Isogami's manager, Sasaki, agreed to meet Takada again — next year, after his crack at the WBC bantam crown.

Satoru Hirata, 125¼, won a unanimous decision over Masami Tomita, 125, eight.

▲ FUJISAWA CITY — Chichibunomiya Memorial Gymnasium — Japanese junior middleweight champion Michihiro Horihata, 154, barely kept his title, fighting to a majority draw with Kenji Shibata, 153¾, the former champion, in 10 hairline frames before 3,000 spectators.

Shibata had lost the title on an upset kayo in the 10th and final round last July, and was attempting to recapture the crown he had held for four years. He, like Horihata, is a southpaw.

Shibata appeared rather sluggish, due, perhaps, to having had to lose a lot of weight. The rugged Horihata put forth some short rallies, especially in the sixth and 10th rounds, but the officials did not think they were enough to merit the decision. Referee Yoshida and judge Tezaki both tabbed the close bout 98-98, while judge Nakamori had the defending champ the winner, 99-98.

In a companion 10, Ryu Kaionji, 111½, the JBC's sixth-ranked flyweight contender, was, amazingly, knocked out by Ken Kasugai, also 111½, a local hero, in 2:00 of the opening session.

Lightweight Tadao Ishido, 132½, outscored Shizuo Tosaka, 129¼, in a preliminary six.

▲ HOFU — City Gymnasium — Masa Ito, 132¼, former Japanese lightweight champion and the oldest active fighter in Japan at 32, cleverly outjabbed and outlegged OPBF junior lightweight boss Mun-Suk Choi, 131½, winning an upset decision in their 10-round non-title bout.

The verdict was close but unanimous. Ito made good use of his footwork and his left hand, and seemed to dominate the pace. His hit-and-grab tactics prevented Choi from scoring.

Ito looked like he was running out of gas in the ninth, when Choi attacked. The OPBF titlist, however, suffered a bad gash and had to be examined by the ringside doctor. The veteran Ito, taller than Mun-Suk, endured the latter's rallies to receive the well-deserved decision.

▲ OSAKA — Sakuranomiya Skating Rink — Rising Elniro Kuruma, 126, floored Katsuo Kazama, 125½, son of ex-national champ Keijiro Kazama, for the mandatory eight-count in the third round and won a shutout decision in six frames. Kurama's record is now 12-3-1.

Masahiro Yanagiya, 111¼, whipped Shinichi Tabaru, 111¾, six.

▲ TOKYO — Korakuen Hall — Naoto Suzuki, Japan's fourth-rated junior middleweight, reduced to 147 and banged out Shigeo Takagi, 146½, in 1:36 of the fifth round.

Suzuki, a southpaw, takes a while to get warmed up, but he has good power. He concentrated on Takagi's breadbasket and the latter collapsed for the count. It was the 24-year-old victor's fifth kayo; he's 5-1. Takagi dropped to 6-2-2 with five knockouts.

The semi-final tenner was a crowd pleaser. Hard hitting Hiroyuki Tanaka, 117½, demolished Masaru Fuji, 116¼, with a couple of knockdowns and stopped him in the seventh round.

Tanaka, the JBC's ninth-ranked bantamweight, kept Funi at bay in the first five rounds, but seemed exhausted in the sixth round, went he went down, at the ropes. Tanaka, on the verge of a kayo loss, launched a desperate rally, and dropped Fuji, unconcious, to the deck with lethal combos. It was Hiroyuki's 10th kayo in 16 triumphs against five defeats. Takagi was a 1979 *Shinjin-o* winner.

Hisao Taira, 128¾, demolished Kazuaki Hamada, 130, another *Shinjin-o* winner, in 1:39 of the first round.

▲ TOKYO — Korakuen Hall — James Callahan, 155, landed a beautiful right counterpunch to drop the more experienced Minoru Ono, 157, in the ninth round. A towel was then tossed in to save the groggy loser.

The 23-year-old Callahan, an upright stylist, is the son of an English father and a Japanese mother. He had compiled a 24-1 record, with 15 kayoes, as an amateur in Liverpool.

This was Jimmy's third triumph in as many outings since he turned professional in Yokohama last November. The tenacious Ono refused to retreat, and he was battered by Callahan's fast straight punches.

Jimmy was ahead by three points at the time of the stoppage, but he often made the mistake of swaying back from punches. Ono's one-two combinations, therefore, sometimes had him on the run.

Callahan, who has great speed, is now rated third by the Japanese Boxing Commission. His future seems very bright.

Ono is now 11-8-1 with five knockouts.

In a companion 10, Takeshi Mine, 130, the JBC's sixth-ranked lightweight, visited the canvas twice, but dropped the glass-jawed Mitsuo Kobayashi, 129¼, three times for an automatic TKO at 2:50 of the third round. The approximately 1,200 fans in attendance enjoyed the give-and-take contest.

Lanky Mikio Kamata, 118, polished off Eiji Amino, 116¾, in 2:56 of the fourth round in their six-round contest.

▲ AOMORI — Prefectural Gymnasium — OPBF featherweight champion Royal Kobayashi, 126, retained his title for the third time with a unanimous 12-round decision over Korean champion Suk-Tae Kim, also 126. Kobayashi concentrated on Yun's midsection, slowing him down very effectively. Yun, 23, is now 9-4-2 with two kayoes. Kobayashi, who did not look sharp, is 29-4 with 24 knockouts.

ORIENTAL & PACIFIC RATINGS
BY THE ORIENTAL & PACIFIC BOXING FEDERATION
(AS OF OCTOBER 30, 1979)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Chong-Pal Park (K)
1. Wally Carr (A)
2. Katsuo Ezashi (J)
3. Heun-Won Kang (K)
4. Ceaser Sasaki (J)
5. Rudy Siregar (I)
6. Torkano Marcos (A)
7. Cassius Naito (J)
8. Ken Holden (A)
9. Byun-Grae Yuh (K)
10. Tsutomu Matsuo (J)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champion
Tadashi Mihara (J)
1. Aquiliano Nicolas, Jr. (P)
2. Michihiro Horihata (J)
3. Yong-Taek Kim (K)
4. Wally Carr (A)
5. Kenji Shibata (J)
6. Phil Davies (A)
7. Ramon Dionisco (P)
8. Jung-Shik Kim (K)
9. Tsutomu Hagusa (J)
10. Tito Gonzaga (P)

WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion
Mak-Dok Lee (K)
1. Akio Kameda (J)
2. Joo-Suk Kim (K)
3. Steve Dennis (A)
4. Chung-Jae Hwang (K)
5. Kumphol Sakomphitak (T)
6. Dan de Guzman (P)
7. Mitsuo Kushikino (J)
8. Gideo Toyogon (P)
9. Eddie Buttons (A)
10. Satanfa S. Pratip (T)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Champion
Sang-Mo Koo (K)
1. Al Cordero (P)
2. Chong-Ho Kim (K)
3. Jeff Malcolm (A)
4. Thom Singthanongsakdi (T)
5. Eichi Fukumoto (J)
6. Ruben Rabago (P)
7. Baek-Yong Park (K)
8. Minoru Sukiya (J)
9. Tongta Kiatvayupak (T)
10. Frank Ropis (A)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Yung-Ho Oh (K)
1. Battle Hawk Kazama (J)
2. Ki-Hoon Kwak (K)
3. Manny Ysrael (P)
4. Jenrob Muangsurin (T)
5. Barry Michel (A)
6. Tony Flores (P)
7. Masa Ito (J)
8. Vechayan Senaphitek (T)
9. Lee Yidano (K)
10. Jimmy Brown (A)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champion
Mun-Suk Choi
1. Johnny Sato (P)
2. Tae-Jin Mun (K)
3. Larry Valesini (A)
4. Yatsusune Uehara (J)
5. Chung-Il Choi (K)
6. Arman Bangoyan (P)
7. Hyung-Kil Chung (K)
8. Ryu Fukida (J)
9. Nilo Acido (P)
10. Glenn Howard (A)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Royal Kobayashi (J)
1. Nene Jun (P)
2. Klonyoth P. Punyoth (T)
3. Suk-Tae Yun (K)
4. Spider Nemoto (J)
5. Dommy Marolena (P)
6. Bok-Soo Hwang (K)
7. Kanekatsu Daito (J)
8. Dorn Sornsakdisith (T)
9. Nick LoBianco (A)
10. Syuzo Yoshida (J)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champion
Soo-Yun Chung (K)
1. Ric Diamale (P)
2. Hiroyuki Iwamoto (J)
3. Chung-Chul Kim (F)
4. Sa-Wang Kim (K)
5. Dejvarin Hollywood (T)
6. Brian Roberts (A)
7. Kenichi Ito (J)
8. Morkasakdi Muangsurin (T)
9. Yu Kasahara (J)
10. Chong-Wo Baek (K)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champion
Eijiro Murata (J)
1. Paul Ferreri (A)
2. Hurricane Teru (J)
3. Ronald Sumalis (P)
4. Venice Borkorsor (P)
5. Yung-Shik Kim (K)
6. Takashi Uezu (J)
7. Billy Abato (P)
8. Hotoshi Ishikaki (J)
9. Jim Bowen (A)
10. Duen-e-san Luklongjun (T)

FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Hwang-Soo Yang (K)
1. Koichi Maki (J)
2. Dan Pisalchai (T)
3. Arnel Arrozel (P)
4. Sokchul Bae (K)
5. Pedro Solo (A)
6. Shoji Oguma (J)
7. Flash Jagdon (P)
8. Hak-Yung Kim (K)
9. Samthong Sithumrong (T)
10. Jiro Takada (J)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Champion
Sang-Il Chung (K)
1. Yong-Hyun Kim (K)
2. Kazunori Tenryu (J)
3. Chungcherng Borkorsor (T)
4. Junior Thompson (A)
5. Ver Libradilla (P)
6. Song-Nam Kim (K)
7. Chungthep Chunwatana (T)
8. Ben Aldeguer (P)
9. Graman Ueda (J)
10. Tae-Shik Kim (K)

Legend: (I) Indonesia; (J) Japan; (K) Korea; (P) Philippines; (T) Thailand.
Note: The Oriental & Pacific Boxing Federation does not rate boxers currently rated by world boxing organizations.

KOREA

▲ SEOUL — Jamsil Gymnasium — In a scheduled 10-round support to the world flyweight title bout between Chan-Hee Park and Miguel Canto, Chung-Il Choi, the KBC's third-ranked 130-pounder, kayoed Kojiro Sasaki in the first session.

It was Choi's third pro bout and his third knockout. He turned professional after winning a Gold Medal in the Asian Amateur games. His first pro bout was in May, 1978.

Choi swarmed all over the Japanese fighter and dropped him three times before knocking him out.

▲ SEOUL — Chungchon Stadium — Unbeaten Sa-Wang Kim, 124, proved too powerful for Danilo Batista, also 124, Brazil, and knocked him out in the fifth round of their scheduled 10-round contest. Batista, who had fought Carlos Zarate for the latter's WBC bantamweight title in Los Angeles on October 29, 1977, was completely overpowered by Kim, the KBC's top junior featherweight contender.

Kee-Hoon Lee, 134½, won the vacant Korean lightweight title by knocking out Nak-Yung Choi, also 134½, in the first round. The throne had been vacant since the retirement of Lee Yidano.

▲ PUSAN — Stadium — Sok-Chul Bae, 112, demolished Kap-Chul Shin, also 112, in the sixth round of a 10-round bout to win the Korean flyweight title.

Hwang-Jin Kim, 111¼, knocked out Ben Aldeguer, 111¼, Philippines, in the 10th and final round.

▲ SEOUL — Munhwa Stadium — Choon-Jae Hwang, 149¼, the KBC's top welterweight contender, halted Filipino veteran Armando Boniquit, also 149¼, in the third round of their scheduled 10-round main event. It was Hwang's fourth triumph and his third kayo. He won a Gold Medal in the Asian Amateur Games last year and is unbeaten as a pro.

▲ PUSAN — Stadium — Korean flyweight champion Yong-Hyun Kim, 111½, knocked out OPBF junior flyweight champion Sang-Il Chung, 112½, in the third round of a 10-round non-title bout. Chung may have to give up his OPBF crown due to weight making difficulties.

In a companion 10, OPBF junior featherweight king Soo-Hyun Chung, 124, TKO'd Japanese newcomer Kanekatsu Daito, also 124, midway in the fifth round.

The card was presented by Champion Promotions.

▲ SEOUL — Munhwa Stadium — Up-and-coming featherweight Yang Il, 127¾, won a unanimous 10-round decision over veteran Thai Thanomchit Sukothai, also 127¾.

Korean flyweight champion Seoung-Hun Lee, 115¾, won a unanimous decision over Nari Endiguez, 114½, 10.

The card was presented by Keukdong Promotions.

▲ PUSAN — Stadium — Undefeated Chung-Il Choi, 132¼, the KBC's top junior lightweight contender, stretched his kayo streak to four as he polished off Keno Kashi, 130¼, Japan, in the first round of their scheduled 10-rounder. Choi is now 4-0.

Kashi, a southpaw, was sent to the canvas by a smashing one-two combo and failed to beat the count.

Choi, a former Gold Medalist in the Asian Amateur Games, looks like he may be a good attraction for Hanjin Promotions.

PHILIPPINES

▲ MANILA — Rizal Memorial Coliseum — National junior featherweight champion Ric Diamale, 119, showed superior ringcraft in taking a unanimous decision over perennial contender Neptali Alamag, 121, 12. The ringwise Diamale, 27, upped his record to 64-7-2. Ric won the crown by beating Pudy Patalinhug in an eliminator in March, 1978, and had defended against ex-champ Sandy Noora and Jaime Enriquez before meeting Alamag.

Willie Espinosa, 128¼, eked out a majority decision over Nick Caputol, 129, in a semi-final junior lightweight 10.

Willie Guinieta, 139, the Philippines Games and Amusements Board's second ranked junior welterweight, was held to a split draw by Baby Art Alcantara, 135, 10.

In the first 10-rounder, Jaime Sanama, 123, won a unanimous decision over Chito Adigue, 123¼, Sanama is now rated in the GAB's top 10.

▲ CAG. DE ORO CITY — Veteran Fernando Cabanela, 127½, won a unanimous decision over Thai Thanomchit Sukothai, 128, 10.

In a companion 10, Mike Benitez, 137, the GAB's second ranked lightweight, won a unanimous decision over Alex Infante, 135.

▲ CEBU CITY — Joe Lim, 135, the GAB's top lightweight contender, was knocked out in the fourth round of a scheduled 10-round bout with up-and-coming Tony Flores, 135½, Flores thus became the number one contender for Manny Ysrael's national throne.

Raffy Saulong, 117, TKO'd Gerry Dominguez, 119, in the eighth round. This was a tune-up for Saulong's crack at Eijiro Murata's OPBF bantamweight crown.

Rod Delos Santos, 136, won a unanimous decision over Mar Simbajon, 135, in the first tenner of the evening. Simbajon had given Masahiro Yokai a tough battle in Japan.

Juanito Ta-O was the promoter.

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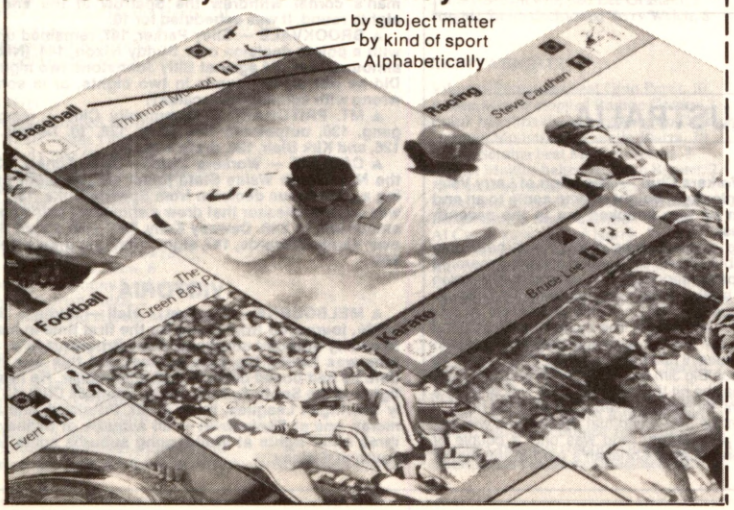

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▲ **DAVAO DEL NORTE** — Nilo Acido, 134, TKO'd Al Rodrigo, 133, in the seventh round. Acido is the GAB's second ranked junior lightweight contender.

The card was promoted by Pedro Solis.

▲ **GEN. SANTOS CITY** — William Mardizon, 138, was held to a unanimous draw by Rino Balaba, 136, 10.

▲ **DAVAO CITY** — Geron Porras, 121½, fought to a majority draw with Rey Naduma, Jr., 123, 10.

A semi-final tenner also saw a split draw. Danilo Inocian, 113½, had a close bout with Diego De Villa, 115.

The double header was promoted by Florentino Uba.

▲ **QUEZON CITY** — Pablo Pepito, 112¼, won a unanimous decision over Salvador Perez, 113½, 10.

▲ **DAVAO DEL SUR** — Jun Resma, 107, TKO'd Abdul Marajan, 107, in the eighth round.

Ric Barimbad, 107, the GAB's second ranked junior flyweight, won a unanimous decision over Little Carupo, 105, 10.

▲ **QUEZON CITY** — Hard hitting Lito Pena, 134, TKO'd Salvador Darlo, 131, in the fourth round of their scheduled 10-rounder.

▲ **BUTUAN CITY** — Primo Bulambao, 133, eked out a majority decision over Cerino Balaba, 134, 10.

▲ **GEN. SANTOS CITY** — Virgilio Basa, 123, stopped Geron Porras, 122, in the second round.

▲ **LUCENA CITY** — Jimmy Gonzalez, 147, scored an upset when he outpunched veteran Erning Marin, also 147, and beat him by unanimous decision in 10 rounds.

Gonzalez is now the number three contender for the Filipino welter crown held by Gideon Toyogon.

THAILAND

▲ **BANGKOK — Rajadamnern Stadium** — Dejvarin Hollywood, the junior featherweight champ, won the Thai national featherweight title with an upset decision over Klonyuth P. Punyuth, 10.

▲ **BANGKOK — Rajadamnern Stadium** — Somchart Sokdiphayak, 130, returned to action after a six-month lay-off and won a unanimous decision over Numckok Sithsaneh, 127, six.

▲ **BANGKOK — Rajadamnern Stadium** — Saksamai Ch. Sirirat, 117, scored an upset knockout over Somboon Chuvatana, also 117, in the fourth round of their rematch.

▲ **BANGKOK — Rajadamnern Stadium** — Komleg Sorthanikul, 110, the Thailand Boxing Commission's seventh ranked junior flyweight, outscored Daocharus Sithsaneh, 109, six.

▲ **BANGKOK — Lumpinee Stadium** — Narogrith Sithsompong, 118, the TBC's number three bantamweight, was held to a debatable draw by Saifah S. Phayathai, 117, in six rounds. Most of the spectators though Narongrith should have gotten the decision due to his superior aggressiveness.

▲ **BANGKOK — Rajadamnern Stadium** — Phichitsuk Kor-u-sayarm, 112, the TBC's sixth-ranked junior flyweight, outpointed Dawroch V. Thaangtrongjit, 111, six.

▲ **BANGKOK — Lumpinee Stadium** — Srinil Sithjular, 125, outscored Dechnarong V. Charernrat, 126, six.

▲ **BANGKOK — Rajadamnern Stadium** — Surija Pratumvadee, 112, the TBC's second ranked junior flyweight, lost a surprising decision to Seesun Muangsurin, also 112, six. The victor had floored the prohibitive favorite for the mandatory eight-count in the third round.

▲ **BANGKOK — Rajadamnern Stadium** — Rising junior flyweight Monsanei Sukothai, 107, younger brother of former world bantamweight contender Thanomchit Sukothai-gym, also 107, in the third round.

▲ **BANGKOK — Rajadamnern Stadium** — It was a bad month for the Pratumvadee family. Suriya Pratumvadee (not Surija, referee to above), 116, the TBC's number four flyweight contender, lost a unanimous decision to Phaktai Bunset, 115, six.

▲ **BANGKOK — Lumpinee Stadium** — Sapeatho Singcheepherng, 125, Thailand's eighth ranked junior featherweight, outscored Sinsamuth Sithkunpai, 125, in a furious battle over six rounds.

▲ **BANGKOK — Rajadamnern Stadium** — Sunthi Donjadee, 130, the TBC's third ranked featherweight contender, stopped Krung Sithsomanus, also 130, in the third round.

JOE Y. KOIZUMI

PAN PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

▲ **REVESBY — Workers Club — The reign of Larry Valesini as Australian junior lightweight champ came to an end after 111 days when he was knocked out in the seventh round by Big Jim West.**

Valesini, 126, gave a courageous display, and helped to make a thrilling fight, but he was out gunned and out generaled by the much more experienced West. The defending champion fought an aggressive battle through most of the action, his object being to get to close quarters and rattle West's ribs. At other times, he stayed out and boxed. The close-in tactics suited West perfectly, as Big Jim himself is an aggressive fighter who loves to wage war. If Valesini had hoped to wear down West, he was being optimistic, as Big Jim has never been stopped in 66 contests. Only once has he hit the deck, and that was only for a second or two. Valesini, though a bull terrier, is not a big hitter.

It was obvious from the first round that West would win, but Valesini kept himself in the fight, and was only a couple of points behind on referee Trevor Christian's card at the end of the sixth session. In the seventh, Valesini stung West, who quickly retaliated. Valesini went down from a right under the ribs, and did not make it to his feet in time.

West was Australian flyweight champion from 1973 to 1975, when increasing weight forced him to relinquish the title. He also won the Commonwealth crown in 1974. That went, along with his national title, when he moved up a division. In 1975, he was unsuccessful in an attempt to win the Australian bantam bauble. The following year he was unsuccessful in trying for the lightweight (yes, lightweight) title. West set an Australian record by annexing the junior lightweight diadem, becoming the first former champion to hop over two or more divisions to win a title in a higher weight classification.

QUEENSLAND

▲ **BRISBANE — Festival Hall — Somebody sold the promoter a pup by sending American Robert Earl Smith as an opponent for Australian Steve Aczel. Who is Smith? He was certainly not in Aczel's class, and must go down as one of the worst boxers imported to Australia in years.**

Aczel is a good fighter, capable of meeting open company in the new cruiserweight division. Sending over poor calibre pugilists such as Smith can only harm the game here and will certainly not help Aczel's career.

In the 10-round main support, Billy Johnstone, 152, one of the top junior middles in Australia, gave Buddy Nixon, 154, a solid drubbing before ending it in round four. In an eight-rounder, Ken Patterson, 142, a very hard puncher, was given a sop in Terry Nixon, 145, Buddy's brother. Terry was finished for the night in the second round.

▲ **HUGHENDEN — Lindsay Major, 135, knocked out Fred Barbagallo, 135, in the first round of a scheduled 10-rounder billed for the vacant Queensland State lightweight title. The bout was not accorded title status elsewhere.**

NEW SOUTH WALES

▲ **GRIFFITH — Woodside Hill — The ring became a battlefield seconds after referee Charkey Ramon disqualified Frank Ropis in the third round of his Australian junior welterweight title bout with champion Jeff Melcolm.**

"Ropis walked up and spat in Malcolm's face," said Ramon. Then Ropis' trainer, Johnny O'Sullivan, threw a punch at Malcolm. I went over to pull them off Malcolm, but I left the ring when a swarm of fans came into the ring and brawled.

"O'Sullivan got a real going over. The crowd did not like him throwing a punch at Malcolm."

Charkey said he warned Ropis a few times during the contest — "head butting, low blows, and things like that." Then, in the third round, came a very low punch. Ramon stopped the fight and called the doctor, who said that Malcolm could not continue, as one of his testicles had been knocked up into his abdomen.

"The low blow looked deliberate," said Ramon. "So, after the doctor's decision, I disqualified Ropis and crowned Malcolm winner on a foul."

"Ropis was arrested later," said promoter Mario Guerra, "but was bailed out."

It was a wild night. Prior to the commencement of the title tilt, a brawl broke out in the audience with some 30 or more fans engaged.

Malcolm, 140, is a fast moving boxer, skilled and tough. He was ahead on points when the bout ended, and probably would have stayed ahead. Ropis, also 140, was bulldogging and became rough early in the bout.

Malcolm was standing, bent over, holding his groin, when he was attacked following the decision. No one attacked the referee who gave the decision. Charkey Ramon was Australian and Commonwealth junior middleweight champion and a certainty to take the world title a few years ago when an injury (outside the ring) forced his premature retirement. He still is fit, scales only a few pounds over the junior middleweight limit, and is aged only 29.

The Malcolm-Ropis bout was scheduled for 15 rounds.

Reno Zurik, 178, outscored Mick Gatto, 192, in the eight-round semi-final.

▲ **KINGSFORD — South Sydney Junior Leagues Club — Ken Salisbury, 160, had an easy points win over Ken Morris, 161, in the feature eight. Salisbury had previously fought under the name of Holden.**

Jim Caru, a prelim boy, knocked out Buddy Nixon in the fourth round of a scheduled five-rounder. Nixon, who had been stopped by Billy Johnstone four nights earlier, had no right to be in a bout again so soon.

▲ **KINGSFORD — South Sydney Junior Leagues Club — Charlie Brown, 122, defended his New South Wales State junior featherweight title against Sparrow Freeman, 122. It was a no-beg-pardons war, with Brown on top. Freeman's corner withdrew the Sparrow at the end of the eighth round. It was scheduled for 10.**

▲ **BROOKVALE — Elley Parker, 147, remained unbeaten with a points decision over Buddy Nixon, 144. (Nixon was announced at 154 against Billy Johnstone two nights later. Did he put on 10 pounds in two nights, or is something wrong with somebody's scales?)**

▲ **MT. PRITCHARD — Community Club — Greg Liesegang, 130, outpointed Reg King, 128, 10. Dennis Talbot, 126, and Kirk Blair, 130, drew, eight.**

▲ **CARDIFF — Workers Club — Dave Agnew, 137, won the New South Wales State junior welterweight title, taking a unanimous decision from Speedo Duke, 137, 10. This was a crowd pleaser that drew a shower of coins and notes amounting to $46. Dawsey Kelly, 143, won a split decision over Vinnie Edwards, 147, eight. That one drew a shower of $66.**

VICTORIA

▲ **MELBOURNE — Festival Hall — Eddie Buttons, 147¾, journeyed from home for the first time in his career to clearly outpoint southpaw Andy Broome, 143¼, 10. Buttons was having his 80th contest, yet this was the first time he had boxed outside a 50-mile radius. He has had 58 fights at the South Sydney Junior Leagues Club, 13 at Manly Warringah Leagues, three at Mt. Pritchard, one at Cammeray, one at Bankstown — all suburbs of Sydney — and three other fights at Wollongong suburbs some 50 miles south of Sydney.**

NEW ZEALAND

▲ DUNEDIN — New Zealand light heavyweight champion Lance Revill knocked out Terry Fox, Australia, in the third round. Jeff Smith, New Zealand, stopped Brian Everard, Australia, in the sixth. RAY MITCHELL

WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Mike Weaver decisioned Scott LeDoux, 12
Gerry Cooney kayoed John Denis, 3
James Tillis halted Harry Terrell, 1
Osvaldo Ocasio stopped Jack Sterling, 1
Greg Page iced James Reid, 1
Earl Tripp knocked out Roberto Reynosa, 2
Ed Jones decisioned Jesus "Yaqui" Meneses, 6
Ed Jones stopped Abdullah Muhammad, 6
Ed Jones kayoed Fernando Montes, 1
Mike Garrahan stopped Ron Gabaree, 1
Randy Mack decisioned Fili Moala, 10
Eric Sedillo halted Al Banks, 3
George Chaplin decisioned Wendell Bailey, 12
Calvin Langston halted Dick Embleton, 4
Morris Jackson stopped Grady Daniels, 3
Lupe Guera decisioned L.J. Harvey, 6
Purcell Davis halted Reggie Phillips, 5
Jeff Sims stopped Glen Morgan, 2
Al Syben beat Felipe Rodriguez, 10
Alfredo Evangelista halted Jakob Tkchanchouing, 2

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Marvin Johnson stopped Victor Galindez, 11
(Won WBA Light Heavyweight Title)
Eddie Gregory halted Kid Samson, 4
James Scott decisioned Yaqui Lopez, 10
Young Joe Louis decisioned Jesse Burnett, 10
Jerry Martin decisioned Jesse Burnett, 12
(NABF Light Heavyweight Title)
Otis Gordon iced David Cabrera, 1
Ramon Ranquello halted James Claar, 3
Frank King stopped Alfonso Aguirre, 3
Reinaldo Oliveira halted Manny Freitas, 5
Jim McNally decisioned Jose Rivera, 8
Dwight Braxton decisioned Johnny Wilburn, 8
Jim Ingram knocked out Alvaro Lopez, 5
Michael Spinks iced Marc Hans, 1
Muhammad Shabazz stopped Dana McCarthy, 5
James Salerno kayoed Starlin Woodside, 7
Tony Mundine halted Ennio Cometti, 9
Shaun Chalcraft beat Alex Tompkins, 8

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Vito Antuofermo drew with Marvin Hagler, 15
(Retained World Middleweight Title)
Kevin Finnegan decisioned Tony Sibson, 15
(British Middleweight Title)
Jean-Claude LeClair stopped Larry Davis, 2
Teddy Mann decisioned Rocky Tassone, 10
Dwight Davison decisioned Willie Monroe, 10
Danny Long iced Tom Molloy, 1
Dom DiMarzo halted Juan Colon, 5
Mike Clark beat James Williams, 10
Bob Coolidge stopped Jim Hearn, 4
Alex Porrata decisioned Greg McPherson, 10
Vinnie Curto beat Eddy Melo, 10
Curtis Parker stopped Gary Guiden, 5
Odell Leonard kayoed Giovanni Bovenzi, 1
Manuel Melon decisioned Carlos Betancourt, 8
Roger Leonard beat Rudy Robles, 8

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Nick Ortiz stopped Rocky Mosley Jr., 5
Tony Chiaverini halted Joey Vincent, 1
Rocky Mattioli kayoed Roy Johnson, 4
Jaime Rodriguez decisioned Danny Heath, 10
David Braxton beat Sammy Floyd, 8
Gary Giron stopped Alfonso Velez, 4
Presciliano Castillo halted Jesse Lara, 8

WELTERWEIGHTS

Sugar Ray Leonard stopped Wilfred Benitez, 15
(Won World Welterweight Title)
Clyde Gray halted Chris Clarke, 10
Raul Aguirre decisioned Richard House, 10
J.J. Cottrell and Frank Lawson drew, 8
Bruce Finch halted Curtis Taylor, 8
Gary Coates beat Justice Ortiz, 8
Sal Lopez halted Kenny Davis, 2
Hector Ortiz decisioned Steve Snow, 8
Joe Sosa and Charlie Evans drew, 6
Sean Mannion kayoed Jimmy Corkum, 6
Sal Lopez kayoed Adrian Bolza, 2
Prince Rodney decisioned Horace McKenzie, 8

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Lennox Blackmoore decisioned Dale Hernandez, 10
Willie Rodriguez stopped Willie Daniels, 2
Larry Stanton beat Tony Petronelli, 10
Rick Folstad whipped Tom Crowley, 8
Jack Morrell halted Angel Rivera, 2
Monroe Brooks stopped Howard Jackson, 10
Alejandro Oregel and Rosendo Ramirez were declared no contest, 8
Ray Mancini stopped Lou Daniels, 6
Roger Guest iced Billy Early, 1
Billy O'Grady beat Gary Ball, 8
Jimmy Brown whipped Lee Graham, 8
Hughie Smith decisioned Terry Welch, 8

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Vilomar Fernandez beat Gino Perez, 10
Ruben Munoz stopped Ramon Comey, 2
Frank Moultrie decisioned Rogelio Castaneda, 10
Herman Montes beat Camilo Ibarra, 10
Sergio Serabia beat Manuel Gomez, 8
Robert Mullins halted Norman Banner, 2
Al Carter kayoed Fred Harris, 7
Mike Ross knocked out Archie Matthews, 2
Rafael Limon Beat Faustino Pena, 10
Al Carter kayoed Fred Harris, 7
Mike Ross knocked out Archie Matthews, 2
Ray Mancini halted Rick Patterson, 2
Rocky Ramon decisioned Angel Mata, 10
Norman Morton and Kerry Collins drew, 8

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Alexis Arguello stopped Bobby Chacon, 7
(Retained WBC Title)
Frankie Baltazar decisioned Alejandro Lopez, 10
Roberto Elizondo halted Ruben Moreno, 2
Robert Garcia decisioned Joe Phillips, 10
Johnny Contreras stopped Gilbert Garza, 3
Juan Garcia beat James Martinez, 10
Ronnie Furlow decisioned Francisco Velez, 8
John Verderosa beat Tomas Diaz, 6
Hilmer Kenty kayoed Scotty Foreman, 3

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Eusebio Pedroza stopped Johnny Aba, 11
(Retained WBA Featherweight Title)
Mike Ayala decisioned Enrique Solis, 10
Gerald Hayes kayoed Joe Nieto, 1
Derrik Holmes beat Leo Lopez, 10
Gerardo Pena stopped Francisco Pico, 6
Mark Davis halted Musio Nava, 2
Jorge Zuniga kayoed Alberto Rivera, 2
Hector Cortez beat Angel Gonzalez, 10

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Eddie Logan stopped Alfonso Zamora, 9
Javier Flores decisioned Cookie Valencia, 12
John Carter beat Juan Romero, 10
Humberto Rodriguez decisioned Gilberto Villicana, 8
Leo Randolph beat Oscar Muniz, 10
Willie Jensen beat Mario Chavez

FLYWEIGHTS

Luis Ibarra decisioned Betulio Gonzales, 15
(Won WBA Flyweight Title)
German Torres stopped Jose "Bazookita" Zavala, 7
Armando Laredo beat Victor Gonzales, 6
Mark Pacheco decisioned Augustin Sanchez, 6

VETERAN BOXERS' BEAT

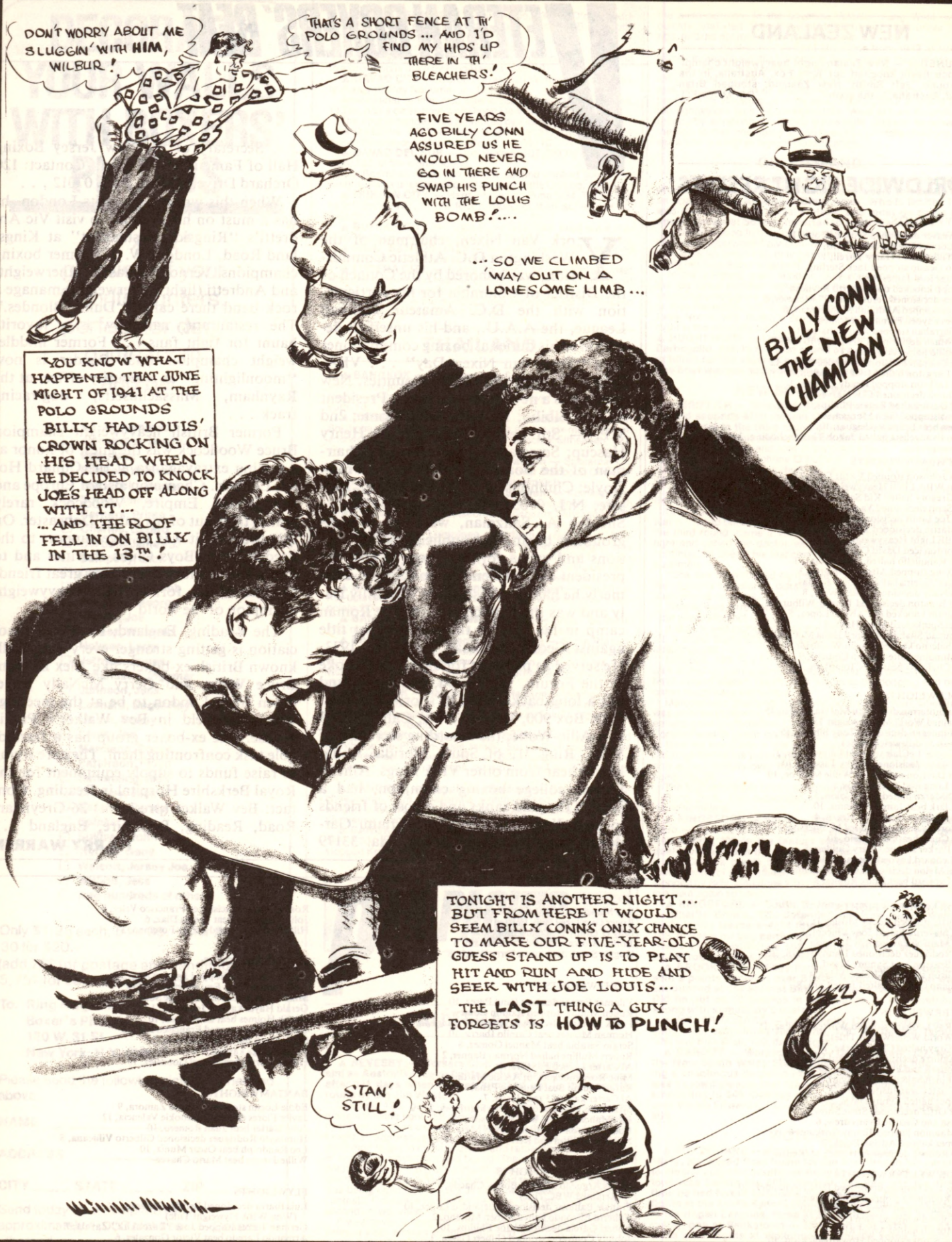
York Van Nixen, chairman of the Washington D.C. Athletic Commission, was honored by the Council of the District of Columbia for his participation with the D.C. Amateur Football League, the A.A.U., and his unselfish devotion to his duties as boxing commissioner with "York Van Nixen Day" . . . VBA, Ring 9, Passaic and Bergen Counties, New Jersey has a new slate of officers: President — Sam Sibilio; 1st V.P. — Pat Conte; 2nd V.P. — Stu Levine; Treasurer — Henry Hascup; Secretary — Steve Frank; Chairman of the Board of Directors — Frank Doyle; Clubhouse — 163 Meade Ave., Passaic, N.J. 07055. Tel.: 201-471-5974 . . . Sheldon A. Saltzman, who has a background in boxing as a publicist, public relations and was a former boxer, is now the president of 20th Century-Fox Sports. Formerly he has been associated with Billy Daly and was the publicist for the Joe Roman camp in his bid for the heavyweight title against George Foreman, Sept. 1st, 1973. He served as publicist for Jack Kent Cooke at the Forum, Inglewood, California and has a long background in sports. Contact: P.O. Box 900, Beverly Hills, Calif., 90213 . . . Allie Wolff, the recording secretary of VBA, Ring 31, of South Florida, would like to hear from other VBA Rings. Allie, a former college boxing champion, had a spell in the paid ranks and a host of friends in New York. Contact: 1075 Miami Gardens Drive, N. Miami Beach, Fla. 33179 . . . Secretary of the New Jersey Boxing Hall of Fame is Mario Centi. Contact: 120 Orchard Drive, Clifton, N.J. 07012 . . .

When this writer next visits London, he has a must on his agenda: to visit Vic Andretti's "Ringside Restaurant" at Kingsland Road, London, W. 2. Former boxing champions Vernon Sollas (featherweight) and Andretti (light welterweight) manage a rock band there called "Dumb Blondes." The restaurant, naturally, is a favorite haunt for fight fans . . . Former middleweight champion Paul Pender is now "moonlighting" as a security officer at the Raynham, Massachusetts, dog-racing track . . .

Former British heavyweight champion Bruce Woodcock was the guest of honor at a boxing extravaganza at the Cunard Hotel, London. Champion also of Europe and the British Empire, Woodcock rarely makes trips out of his native Doncaster. On this occasion it was to give support to the Freddie Mills Boys Clubs charities and to honor the memory of his late, great friend, Freddie Mills, former light heavyweight champion of the world . . .

The Reading, England, Ex-Boxer Association is getting stronger every day. Well-known British ex-boxers like Alex Buxton, Bruce Wells, and Gerry McNally travel down from London to be at the meetings which are held in Bev Walker's Public House. The ex-boxer group has a formidable task confronting them. They are trying to raise funds to supply equipment for the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. Contact: Bev Walker (president) 26 Greyfriars Road, Reading, Berkshire, England . . .

HARRY WARREN



Willard Mullin, 1941

A look at boxing cartoons & cartoonists

By BILL GALLO

Somewhere in the works of William Shakespeare you will find Polonius asking Hamlet (whose head is buried in a book), "What do you read, my Lord?"

"Words, words, words," is the reply by Hamlet.

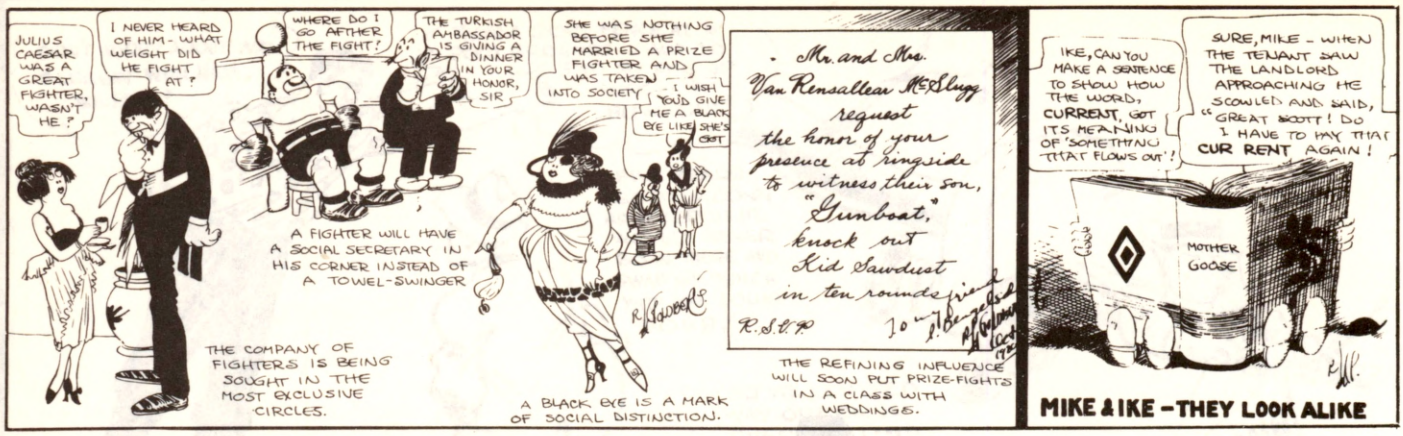
Here we give you — with just a few words — pictures, pictures, pictures. Fight pictures. The kind of fight pictures that were drawn by a grand group of not so long ago who told their stories with pen and ink. I refer to the sports cartoonists.

This is not intended to be a complete history of sports cartoons, but a sort of conversation piece about my profession, telling you some stories I have heard along the way about some of the great people who became famous as artistic sports journalists.

The grand fraternity, as I knew it when I was a kid with ambitions of someday being one of them, started with TAD. Thadius A. Dorgan, better known by his initials TAD, was a Hearst star for the first two decades of the twentieth century. A cartoonist, whose favorite sports assignment was the boxing beat, TAD was not considered the greatest draftsman, but his delivery of an idea and his impact on the reader with his wit, wisdom, and originality was unequalled.

The late Nat Fleischer in his book, "50 Years At Ringside," had this to say about TAD:

"Of all the colorful writers from all parts of the world with whom I worked, my first choice is Tad Dorgan, whose boxing cartoons were unex-



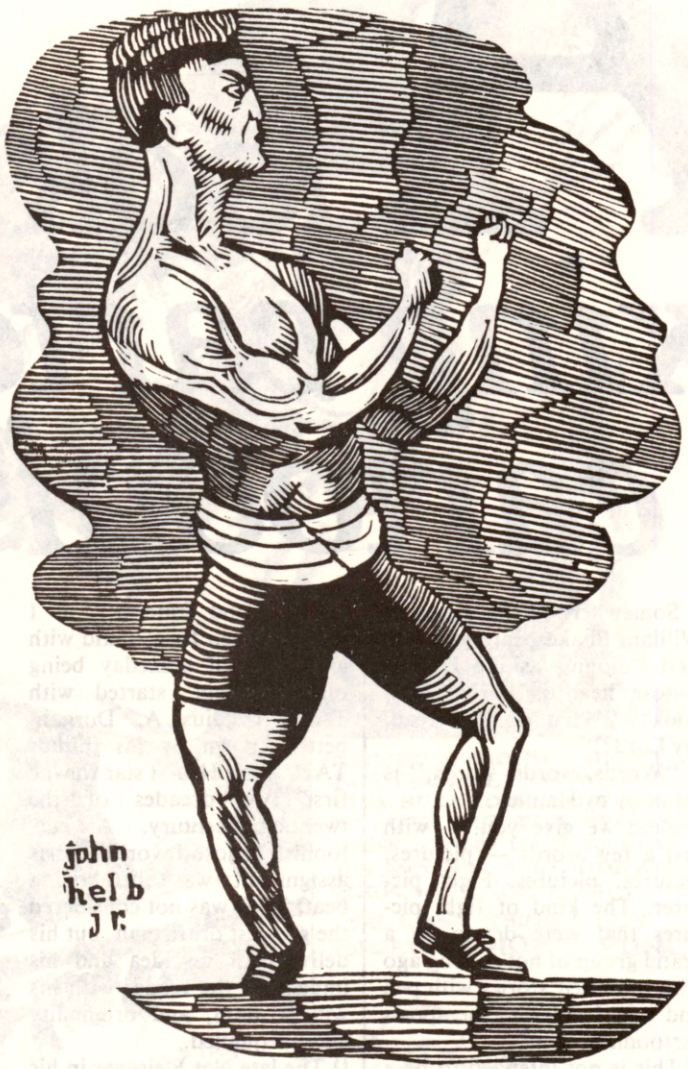
Rube Goldberg, "Mike & Ike," c. 1912

celled and whose coinage of words formed the pattern for later-day sports writers. TAD held an amazing place in American journalism. He was not only a great writer about fighters and an expert in the game, but he was one of the most graphic cartoonists we have had on the west side of the Atlantic.

"I can recall at least 50 'nicknames' that he had originated to describe fighters with certain peculiarities; and the names by which he called them are to this day their identification in the fistic world. He and Damon Runyon and Bill McGeehan contributed more to the slang expressions that swept the country from time to time than any other writers.

"Battling Nelson, TAD dubbed 'The Bat', Billy Petrolle he called 'The Fargo Express', Jack Dempsey 'The Manassa Mauler' and Joe Gans was dubbed 'The Old Master'. It was he who named Jack Johnson, 'Li'l Arthur' at the time that the giant Negro was in training for his fight with Jim Jeffries at Reno. TAD was the only fistic expert in Reno who picked Johnson to win by a knockout.

"The stories about TAD are so numerous it would take a volume to tell them. His escapades in Jack Dempsey's restaurant are still told around bars where boxing buffs gather. One night two song writers picked up his expression 'Yes, we have no bananas' and made a million out of it."



JACK DEMPSEY CHAMPION of THE WORLD

John Held, Jr., c. 1918

Around the same time as TAD — and from the same part of the country, the west coast — there was a young whiz doing sports cartoons for the San Francisco *Chronicle* named Rube Goldberg. Known today for his editorial cartoons, his crazy inventions and sculptures and winning the Pulitzer Prize, Goldberg loved the sport of boxing and first made his name known as a boxing cartoonist.

Boxing was in its infancy when Goldberg first came on the scene in 1906, with Tex Rickard promoting his very first bout, the Joe Gans-Battling Nelson lightweight championship bout in Goldfield, Nevada. In order to ballyhoo the fight, Rickard displayed the then unheard amount of $30,000 — the fighters' purses — in the window of his saloon, The Northern. Goldberg chronicled the event in his own inimitable manner, drawing a cartoon of a mob gathered around a pitchman, all waving money. The pitchman was selling something Goldberg called "The new suplex little wonder glass-cutter . . . only $9.99" and Rube captioned the tongue-in-cheek cartoon "Selling like Hot-cakes."

Other humorists of the day started as sports cartoonists who devoted much of their time to the drama of the prize ring. Notably, there were Bugs Baer and Harry Hershfield,

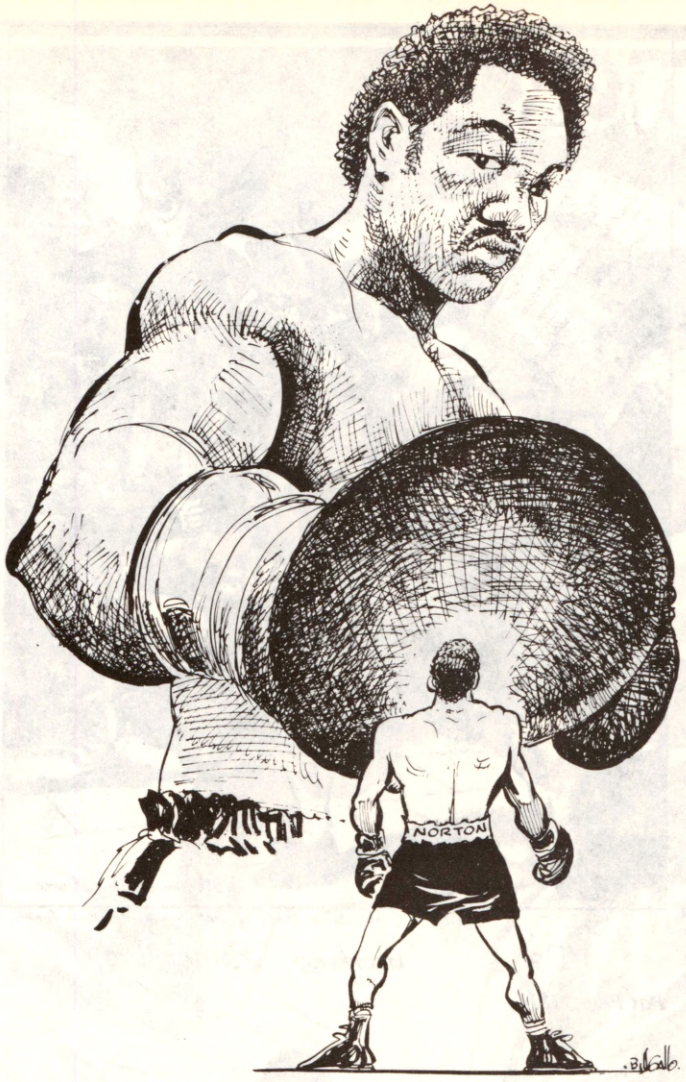
who were both under contract with William Randolph Hearst. It was Hershfield who once said, when asked if the 6'6" giant heavyweight Primo Carnera was really that big, "Big? Why, he's so big, he wears overcoat buttons on his fly."

Harry once told this story about him and his friend TAD: "TAD thought he was a fighter. 'Can you box?' he said to me one time. He didn't know I'd been a boxer. He had only one good hand, you know. He feinted with his stump and I knocked him cold. Square on the jaw. Cold. He never troubled me again."

When I think of the sports cartooning fraternity, other great names pop up. Names like Hype Igoe, a wonderful cross-hatch artist who later went into more writing than drawing, and Robert Edgren who sketched the outcome of fights beautifully. This man could write as well as he drew and he did both expertly. And there was Robert Ripley, an excellent sports cartoonist who really made it big when he hit upon an idea quite by accident.

As a sports cartoonist in 1918 on the old New York *Globe* with a deadline to meet and no idea for a subject, Ripley quickly gathered together a few athletic oddities, including a group of seven men who set records for running backwards and captioned the cartoon, "Believe It or Not". The readers loved it and Ripley was on his way to becoming a multi-millionaire.

Also in the old-timers group there were Grant Powers of the *News* and Gus Edson of the same paper. The Brooklyn *Eagle* had a very capable man in Ed Hughes and the Long Island *Press* ran the cartoons of Sam Davis.



Bill Gallo, 1974

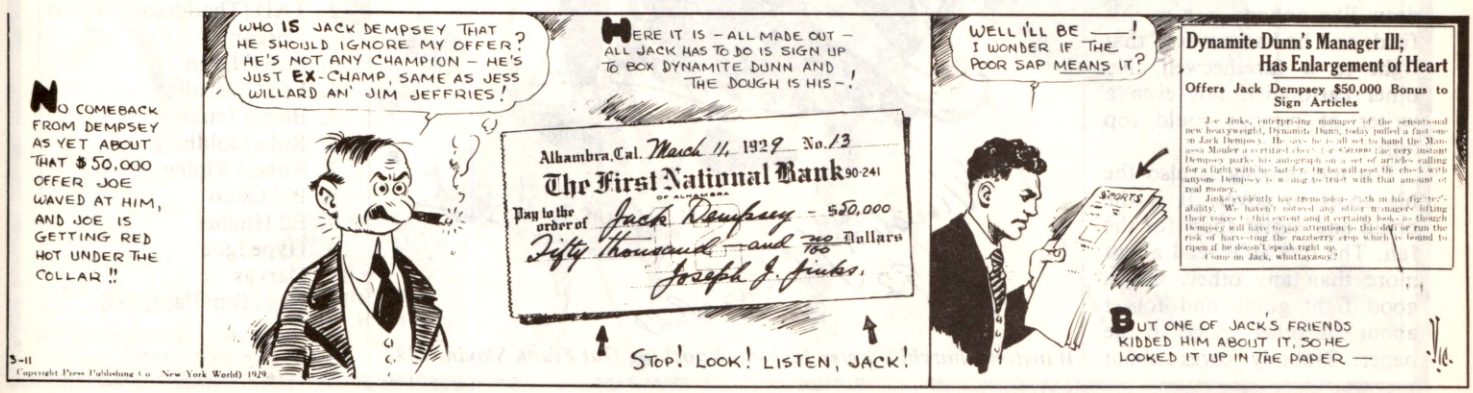
What I will now call the "Moderns" in sports cartooning are the people with whom I had the pleasure of being associating with at one time or other in my earlier years as a professional. Of course I can't call them modern-modern because modern-modern is today-today — and there aren't too many of us left.

The "modern" group — some of them sadly gone — are, Bob Coyne (Boston), Burris Jenkins, Jr. New York (*Journal-American*), Lou Darvas (Cleveland), Tom Paprocki (Associated Press), Ted Carrol (*Ring Magazine*), Charlie McGill (Bergen *Record*), Frank Evers (Jersey *Journal*), Karl Hubenthal (Los Angeles), Fred Wetherly (New York *Mirror*), Johnny Pierotti (N.Y. *Post*), Murray Olderman (N.E.A.), Bruce Stark (N.Y. *News*), Leo O'Mealia, my predecessor and my mentor at the N.Y. *Daily News* and Willard Mullin (N.Y. *World Telegram and Sun*), the greatest sports cartoonist of them all.

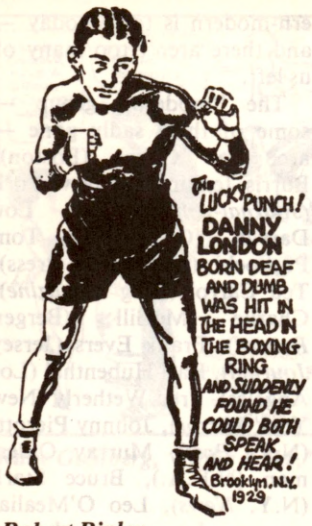
When Willard Mullin came around he was such an immediate influence on so many younger cartoonists that some copied his lettering. And others even shamelessly traced his great drawing style. There were times one had to look twice to make sure the famous Mullin signature was there. It was widespread plagarism and proof of the great impact he had on young artists. Of course, it was not a way for young artists to go — copying line-for-line another man's work. I'm glad I wasn't one of them.

Mullin's favorite sport was boxing; no doubt about it. If Willard were alive today (Ed. note: Mullin died last year at the age of 76) he would put it this way: "Back in L.A. I

Bill Gallo is the sports cartoonist and boxing columnist for the New York Daily News *and president of the New York Boxing Writers.*



Vic Forsythe, "Dynamite Dunn," c. 1927



Robert Ripley, "Believe It Or Not," c. 1937

started working the fights — a beat I've always enjoyed a great deal. This feeling for fights and fighters is attributable to my early introduction to the Manly Art. During those Prohibition '20s, Jack Doyle's Sporting Center at nearby Vernon was an oasis for any self-respecting bookie — or hood. You came in from wherever you parked your cart, but the lone exit was through the bar. In those days, the best of the west fought weekly bouts at Doyle's. Dad loved the fights. Alas, he wasn't against a drink or an evening. We used to attend Doyle's together. I always took my sketch pad — even as a kid. I noted that different styles in fighters induced interesting penwork. Lew Tendler, Joe Benjamin, Al Grunan and Sergeant Sammy Baker — I saw and studied them all and endeavored to translate their 'moves' to paper."

When Mullin covered a fight for his newspaper, his little nervous figures were magic. When he was into it, he could draw like nobody else in this field; and he had covered that fight to a faretheewell. No other cartoonist, not even a writer of repute, could top him.

For me, boxing is also the big sport to cover. It is the bread and butter sport for the fan. The one he'll read about more than any other. Get a good fight going and forget about the other sports in the paper. Nobody cares about basketball or hockey when there's a heavyweight title fight on tap.

I don't know why the Sweet Science attracts us so. I have never held myself down long enough to give it serious thought. And, if I did, I suspect I wouldn't come up with anything you could call profound. All I know is I enjoy the sport. Maybe for its basicness. Or maybe for its fascination. Or maybe, everybody secretly has a bit of the Walter Mitty in him and dreams of being heavyweight champion.

I say the following with all the modesty I can muster: A sports cartoonist can capture the sporting event — and more directly, a boxing match — through his special talents of observing, listening and forming opinions with the aid of humor, drawing ability and responsible reporting.

This is what I try to do and I thank all the great cartoonists who came before me for laying down the ground rules.

Pat Pegg, 1811

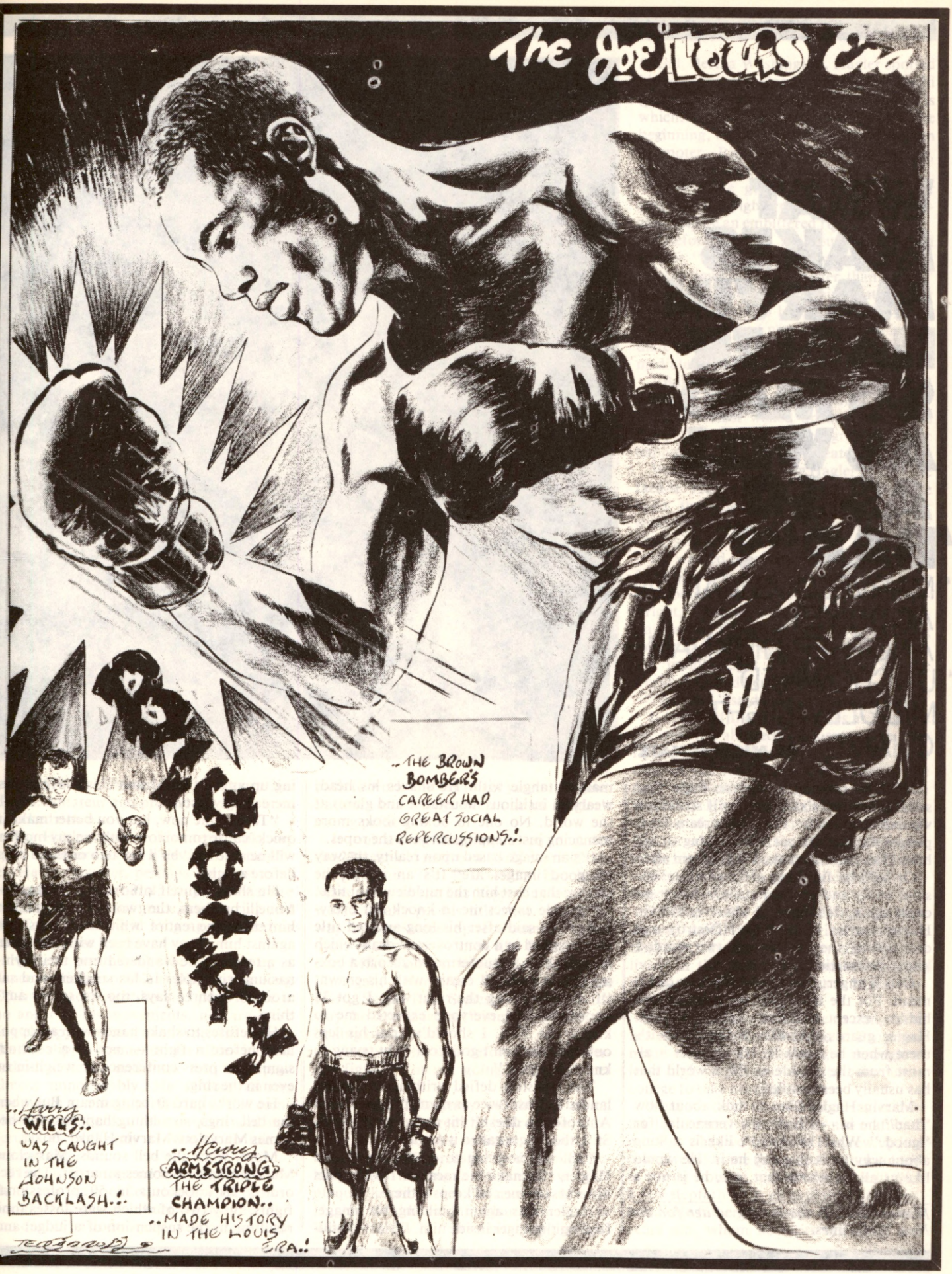
Winston Churchill, Peter Jackson Knocking Out Frank Slavin, 1892.

BILL GALLO'S TWELVE GREATEST SPORTS CARTOONISTS

Bill Gallo is the multi-award-winning sports cartoonist of the *New York Daily News* and past president of the Cartoonist Society. Of his selections he says: "The late Willard Mullin (of the *New York World-Telegram & Sun*) is the all-time champ, the greatest sports cartoonist of all time.

1. Willard Mullin
2. TAD (Thaddeus Aloysius Dorgan)
3. Bob Edgren
4. Leo O'Mealia
5. Burris Jenkins
6. Rube Goldberg
7. Robert Ripley
8. Bill Gallo
9. Ed Hughes
10. Hype Igoe
11. Darvas
12. Pap (Tom Paprocki)

From *The Book of Sports Lists* by Phil Pepe and Zander Hollander

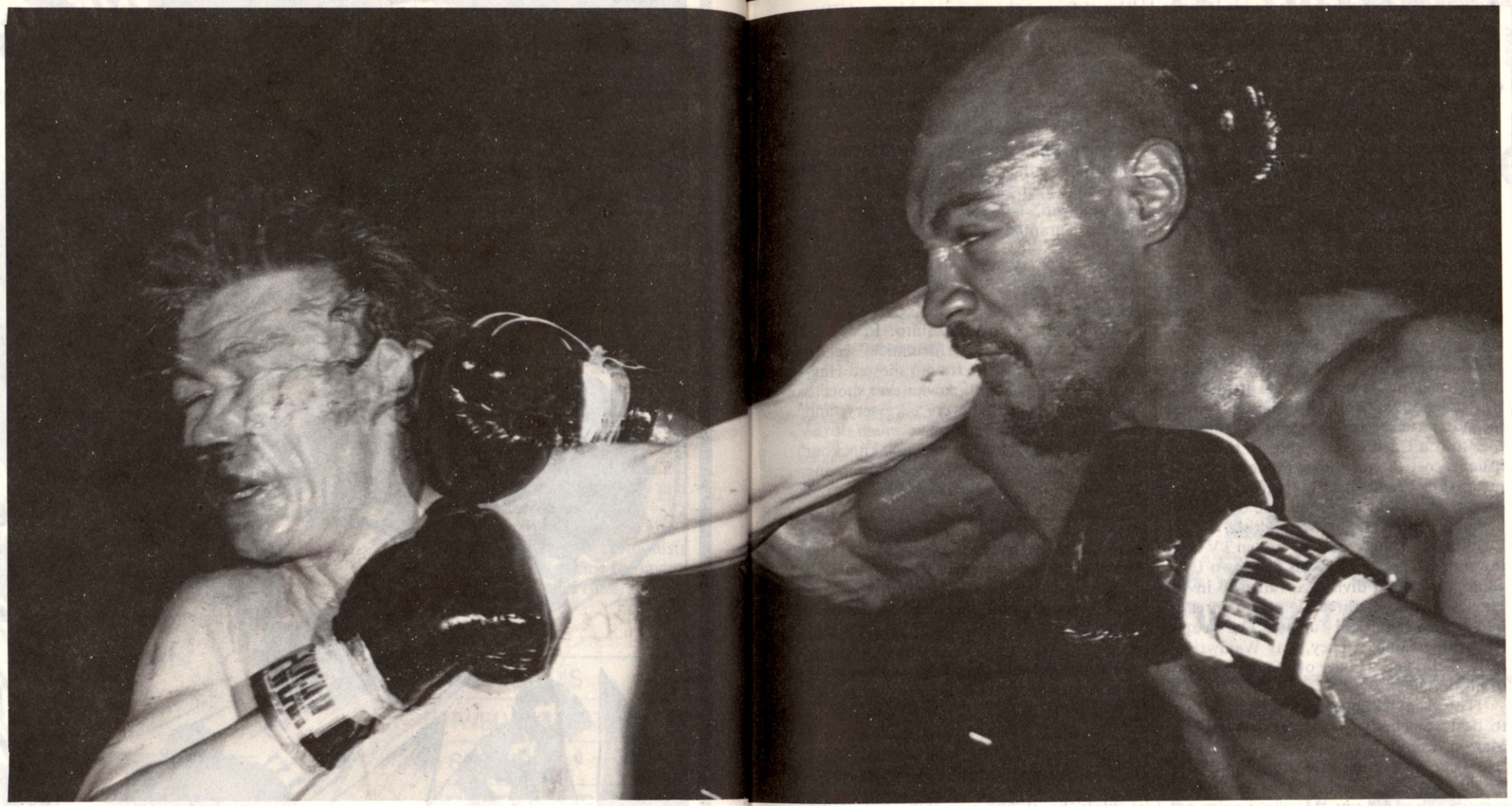


Ted Carroll, c. 1938

WHAT MAKES MARVIN HAGLER SO MAD- AS WELL AS SO "BAD"?

"MARVELOUS MARVIN" ADDS YET ANOTHER NICKNAME: "UNCROWNED MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMP"

BY MICHAEL KATZ



He'll be running along the Cape Cod sand dunes when suddenly he'll scream, a wounded animal type of scream that pierces the wet salt air: "I'm going to kill him. They can't stop me. I'll kill them all."

Or he'll be finishing off a sparring session, cooly and professionally, when it escapes again, this shriek of whatever Marvin Hagler carries inside him: "Destroy and destruction, they're the only two words I know, destruction and destroy."

Call it anger; call it bitterness; or call it mean. For the most part, he keeps it well hidden, except when he's hyping a fight. Hagler guards that bile jealously, so it's there when he needs it. He protects it almost from the outside world; a world that has usually been hostile.

Marvin Hagler likes to talk about how "bad" he is — "bad" the vernacular for "good." What he doesn't like is talking about *why* he is the way he is. He would like us all to believe that, yes, he is not a man to tangle with. He shaves his head, wears an insidious moustache and glares at the world. No one in boxing looks more menacing just stepping between the ropes.

It's an image based upon reality, the way all good images are. It's an image, he thinks, that cost him the middleweight title.

"People expect me to knock out everybody," he said after his long-awaited title shot resulted in a controversial draw which allowed Vito Antuofermo to absorb a boxing lesson and still escape with his crown. "I did everything the right way. I got 38 knockouts and everyone expected me to knock out Vito. I should've put his legs out, but you don't go into a fight trying to knock out Vito."

The decision defied arithmetic. Hagler landed at least twice as many punches. And Antuofermo doesn't hit as hard as Hagler. Still, the judges called it a draw.

"All this is going to do for me," said Hagler, "is make me meaner. It only puts bitterness in me and keeps it there."

Hagler was again building his image, feeding the anger inside him. It starts building up as the fight draws closer. He grows increasingly testy.

"Talk to me now, but you better make it quick 'cause tomorrow not even my mother will be able to," he'll say two or three days before a fight.

He shuts himself off from even the Petronelli brothers, the two men who taught him that the entire white race was not against him. They have been with him since as a teenager he wandered into their gymnasium with holes in his sneakers and sat around for three days, too shy to say anything.

He refuses to shake hands with an opponent before a fight — not at a contract signing or press conference or weigh-in or even in the ring.

He works hard at being mean. But when the bell rings, something happens. He becomes Marvelous Marvin Hagler, boxer.

More, when the bell sounds, Marvelous Marvin Hagler becomes an artist. The record is 38 knockouts in 50 professional fights, only two of which were losses (one resulting in the suspension of a judge) and two of which have been controversial draws. Amateur and pro, he has never been knocked down.

But Hagler, despite his mean look, despite his record, is not a devastating puncher. He is, however, perhaps the most consummate boxer around. Only Fred Astaire could match him for grace inside a ring and the Tap-Dancing Kid long ago decided to stick to Ginger Rogers.

Hagler's panther-like body takes up a dance to the inexorable rhythms of his long (75-inch reach) right-handed jabs. There is no anger to his movements, nor are there any choppy motions, even when his shaven skull is slipping punches. He slides into an orthodox stance and back into southpaw almost unnoticeably. He seldom throws one punch at a time, preferring to mix combinations of hooks, jabs, crosses and uppercuts as brilliantly as Van Gogh mixed yellows and reds.

There is no anger, no meanness, no dirty shots, just the cool detachment of a professional. If he gets you hurt, he'll try to take you out. If he doesn't take you out, he'll go back to work and try to get you hurt again. Patience has always been one of Hagler's strong points.

It took a long time, much too long, for the 27-year-old native of the Newark ghetto to go from the Petronelli's Brockton, Mass., gym to the Las Vegas ring where he would finally get his title shot. Along the way, he beat more top ten contenders than most champions — men like Bennie Briscoe, Mike Colbert, Willie Monroe, Kevin Finnegan, Norberto Cabrera, Eugene Hart, Sugar Ray Seales. And along the way, he developed a "bitter taste" for the boxing business.

"I know," he said before the Antuofermo fight, "I'm not going to get another shot."

The post-fight party was in full swing when Hagler entered the ballroom at Caesars Palace. He was, as usual, dapperly attired in a double-breasted sports jacket. Behind him, holding a lacquered wooden plaque inscribed to "Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Middleweight Champion of the World. 11/30/79," was his long-time girl friend, Bertha Washington. Hagler spotted his co-managers, Goody and Pat Petronelli (people are always forgetting which one is which: Goody, Hagler's trainer since the beginning, is the tall one), his loyal Boston promoter, Rip Valenti, and his lawyer, Steve Wainwright, all in a corner.

"Hey, I've got some good news for you," Wainwright greeted what he expected would be an embittered fighter.

"Before you tell me your news," said Hagler, "I've got better news for you."

"No news could be better than mine," Wainwright insisted, certain that Hagler would be happy to learn that Bob Arum, the promoter, had promised him an immediate rematch (a promise, incidentally, immediately broken the next morning).

"Barrister, I got better news for you. I want you to meet my future wife."

Tears almost welled up in the lawyer's eyes. "Marvin," he said congratulating the happy pair, "you're The Greatest."

Wainwright knows the Hagler behind the facade. He's been with him five years. He knew that there were two things Hagler wanted to do that chilly night in Las Vegas; "two gifts he wanted to make."

He wanted to win the middleweight title for all his people, all the people who have been beside him for 10 years," said Wainwright, "and he wanted to propose marriage as the finest 160-pound human being to Bertha. Since he, in his own mind, won the middleweight championship of the world, he asked her anyway."

"At least," said Hagler, "I won a wife."

It is one of the rare glimpses at Hagler's personal life allowed by his entourage. The fighter himself does not talk of his early days in the festering Newark ghetto, the days when obviously the pain inside him was born. He does not talk about his father, who left home when Marvin was a small boy, or about the race riots in 1968 that made his mother decide to move her family — Marvin and five younger children — to Brockton, Mass.

"Things were rough for us in New Jersey," said Hagler. "The riots were going on, there was a lot of poverty, and we were living in the ghetto. My mother thought things would be better for us in Massachusetts. She was right."

Ida Mae Hagler usually hears daily from her eldest son. She remarried in Brockton, made sure all six children got through at least high school and went to community college to take nursing courses.

What we don't know about Hagler during his formative years does not matter so much as what we do know: He grew up in a matriarchal home (his grandmother, another strong woman, was always present) with a few stepfathers in an explosive neighborhood. He fathered a boy in Newark, now 9 years old, whom he visits regularly, and

Michael Katz is the boxing writer for the New York Times.

whom he is happy to report "loves boxing."

Of course, there is bitterness. But deep down there is also a man who has never been in serious trouble and whose main anger seems directed towards the boxing world.

It is not lost on him that on the night he fought for the *entire* middleweight title for $40,000, Sugar Ray Leonard was fighting for *half* the welterweight title and earning $1 million. It is not lost on him that Leon Spinks fought for the title after seven pro fights. Is he bad? "I'm too good for my own sake," he replies.

Hagler began fighting in Newark. "There was always a bully around," he says in what has become a New England accent. He fought and he looked at fight posters and imagined himself growing up to be Floyd Patterson.

He was 16 years old when he moved to Brockton; 16 years old when he walked into the gym run by the Petronelli brothers.

"He didn't say a word, just sat there," remembers Goody Petronelli, the tall one. "Finally, on the third day, I asked him, 'Do you want to be a boxer?'

" 'I want to be a fighter,' he told me. 'First,' I said, 'You got to become a boxer.' "

Hagler received his first lesson that day. The next day, he showed up and his jab was improved. Goody Petronelli was surprised. "He told me he had practiced all night in front of a mirror," said the 50ish trainer. "Marvin wasn't a natural, not at first. He had to work hard."

He was a successful amateur fighter, winning the national Amateur Athletic Union title in 1973 before turning pro. As an amateur, he had started shaving his head "for good luck." Always, he said, his idols had been "legends" like Jack Johnson and Rubin (Hurricane) Carter. Before he fought Bennie Briscoe, he told the former No. 1 contender, "You're about to become a legend. From now on, I'm the baddest bald man."

"Hey," says Hagler, "with four sisters running around, finding a comb in the house was a problem."

Five years ago, the Petronelli's were unable to get Hagler up the ladder and they came close to losing him. His ability had become known in certain circles in New England, certain circles that wanted to move in and take over from the Petronelli's. The Petronelli's, in the words of Wainwright, "didn't have any clout."

Across the street from the Petronelli gym in Brockton are the law offices of Wainwright Wainwright Wainwright Wainwright and Wainwright (Editor's note: five Wainwrights and no commas), which stands for Steve, his father, two brothers and a sister-in-law. Steve Wainwright normally took a dinner break from his 16-hour day as a courtroom lawyer at a neighborhood bar and grill, The Pub, which was also where the boxers usually went after the gym closed. The Petronelli's asked Wainwright for help. "When you find something that's stellar," said the lawyer, "you don't want to share it. But they were very concerned that if they didn't do business, Marvin would never get the shot at the title."

"I don't want to die in nobody's gym," said Hagler at the time.

Wainwright told the Petronelli's he would join the entourage and they wouldn't "have to sell their souls" to get Hagler a title shot. He lined up some political clout, including no less than House Speaker Tip O'Neill and Senators Ted Kennedy and Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts. Rip Valenti, the Boston promoter, moved in and started arranging fights for him at the Boston Garden, even though the bouts usually cost the promoter money. Valenti, now a key member of the entourage, has been promised at least one title defense to promote should Hagler win the title.

Still, Don King's scandal-ridden TV boxing tournament, which was to crown U.S. champions in all divisions, failed to invite Hagler ("it took three fighters I already had beaten," he still fumes). The people who run boxing, "They," as Wainwright calls Them, kept Hagler off better than any of his opponents.

"They kept telling Marvin first he'd have to beat somebody," said the lawyer, "so Marvin would beat the guy and asked, 'Now can I have my title shot?' and They would say, 'No, first you have to beat someone else.' I'd say, 'Marvin, you've got *one* more guy,' and he'd say, 'That's not fair,' and it got to the point where we realized we were going to have to beat everybody until Marvin was an old man."

Contenders like Antuofermo ducked Hagler. Rodrigo Valdez, the champion, wanted no part of him. But finally, last Feb. 28, Wainwright went to Arum in New York and returned to Brockton with all sorts of promises. "We didn't have any contract for a title shot," he said "but at least Marvin could see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Arum found what Wainwright called the "toughest Argentine he could find," Norberto Cabrera, and matched him with Hagler on the same Monte Carlo card on which Hugo Corro of Argentina was to lose his title to Antuofermo. Hagler, if he won, would get the next title shot. It was in writing.

Hagler stopped Cabrera, who had once floored and outpointed Corro, in the eighth round. It was a performance that had the Europeans, who prefer middleweights to lumbering heavyweights, raving. "I just forgot about Carlos Monzon," one French writer, who had been bemoaning the decline of the 160-pound division, began his story the next day. Nino Benvenuti of Italy, the former champion, enthused: "I've never seen anyone like him, he's so perfect he's almost a robot."

Arum realized he had a star, someone he said that on the international scene could be even bigger than Sugar Ray Leonard. Antuofermo, who is afraid of no one, quickly granted Hagler the promised match.

"I'll swat the mosquito," said Hagler, passing around flyswatters the week before the fight.

Antuofermo is no mosquito. In one of the most courageous performances seen in a long while, the little Italian spotted Hagler a 5½-inch reach, took whatever shots to his scarred head that were necessary, and had the challenger backing up much of the fight. Hagler's punches are not knockout drops to begin with; thrown while moving backwards, they are even less lethal.

He won the fight, it says here, but not by that much. "I could've been sharper," he agreed. In the back of his mind was the knowledge that he probably would have to go 15 rounds for the first time and that Antuofermo's greatest asset is his stamina. "Now at least I know I can go 15," said Hagler.

Wainwright said Hagler had been unable to warm up properly in his dressing room, a converted trailer. "There was barely enough room in there to tape him," said perhaps the only lawyer working a corner these days. "Marvin must throw a lot of punches to warm up properly. Not only couldn't he throw a punch, but if he bobbed and weaved, he'd hit his head on a pipe running across the top of the thing. It was a mobile cubicle. No middleweight champion of the world has ever thrown punches in a mobile cubicle."

After the fight, Wainwright was saying that whereas before there was "destroy and destruction," as a result of the decision, it would now be "catastrophe and kill."

But that is not the Marvelous Marvin Hagler the lawyer has come to know better than most people are allowed, "the kindest, most generous person I've ever met . . . a magnificent human being."

Wainwright also knows the tireless visitor to hospitals in Brockton and Boston. Hagler loves children.

"When kids find out so-and-so from the Red Sox or so-and-so from the Patriots is visiting their wards," said Wainwright, "they get all excited and wait for the celebrity in their beds. But when they find out it's Marvelous Marvin Hagler, they get out of bed, put themselves into their wheel chairs or on their crutches, and go out looking for him. He is The Man.

"Kids can not be fooled by pretense and children love Marvelous Marvin Hagler. But not half as much as Marvelous Marvin loves kids."

So much for images.

MARVIN HAGLER

1973

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
May 18	Terry Ryan	Brockton	KO 2
July 25	Sonny Williams	Boston	W 6
Aug. 8	Muhammad Smith	Boston	KO 2
Oct. 6	Don Wigfall	Brockton	W 8
Oct. 26	Cove Green	Brockton	KO 4
Nov. 18	Cocoa Kid	Brockton	KO 2
Dec. 7	Manny Freitas	Portland, Me.	KO 1
Dec. 18	James Redford	Boston	KO 4

1974

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Feb. 5	Bob Harrington	Boston	KO 5
Apr. 5	Tracy Morrison	Boston	KO 8
May 4	Jim Redford	Brockton	KO 2
May 30	Curtis Phillips	Portland, Me.	KO 5
July 16	Robert Williams	Boston	KO 3
Aug. 13	Peachy Davis	New Bedford	KO 1
Aug. 30	Sugar Ray Seales	Boston	W 10
Oct. 29	Morris Jordan	New Bedford	KO 4
Nov. 16	George Green	Brockton	KO 1
Nov. 26	Sugar Ray Seales	Seattle	D 10
Dec. 20	D.C. Walker	Boston	KO 2

1975

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Feb. 15	Don Wigfall	Brockton	KO 5
Mar. 31	Joey Blair	Boston	KO 2
Apr. 14	Jimmy Owens	Boston	W 10
May 24	Jimmy Owens	Brockton	W dis 6
Aug. 7	Jesse Bender	Portland, Me.	KO 1
Sept. 30	Lamont Lovelady	Boston	KO 7
Dec. 20	Johnny Baldwin	Boston	W 10

1976

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Jan. 13	Bobby Watts	Philadelphia	L 10
Feb. 7	Matt Donovan	Boston	KO 2
Mar. 9	Willie Monroe	Philadelphia	L 10
June 2	Bob Smith	Taunton, Mass.	KO 5
Aug. 3	D.C. Walker	Providence	KO 6
Sept. 14	Eugene Hart	Philadelphia	KO 8
Dec. 21	George Davis	Boston	KO 6

1977

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Feb. 15	Willie Monroe	Boston	KO 12
Mar. 16	Reginald Ford	Boston	KO 3
June 10	Roy Jones	Hartford	KO 3
Aug. 23	Willie Monroe	Philadelphia	KO 2
Sept. 24	Ray Phillips	Boston	KO 7
Oct. 15	Jim Henry	Providence	W 10
Nov. 26	Mike Colbert	Boston	KO 12

1978

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Mar. 4	Kevin Finnegan	Boston	KO 9
Apr. 7	Doug Demmings	Los Angeles	KO 8
May 13	Kevin Finnegan	Boston	KO 7
Aug. 24	Bennie Briscoe	Philadelphia	W 10
Nov. 11	Willie Warren	Boston	KO 7

1979

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	RESULT
Feb. 3	Sugar Ray Seales	Boston	KO 1
Mar. 12	Bobby Patterson	Providence	KO 3
May 26	Jaime Thomas	Portland, Me.	KO 3
June 30	Norberto Cabrera	Monte Carlo	KO 8
Nov. 30	Vito Antuofermo	Las Vegas	D 15

For World Middleweight Title

Summary

BOUTS	WINS	LOSSES	DRAWS	KO'S
50	46	2	2	38

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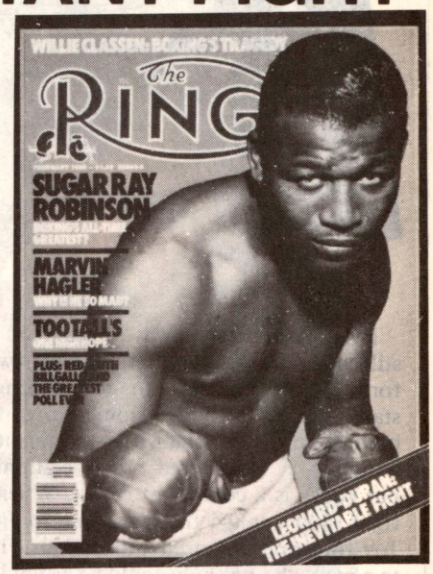

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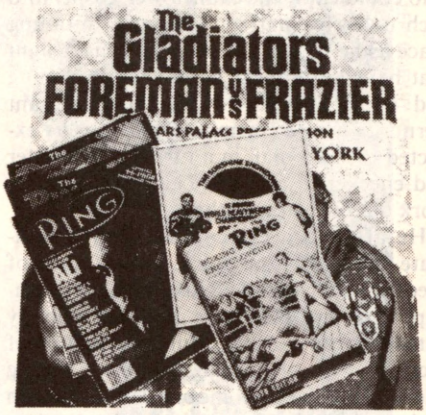

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RED ALL OVER

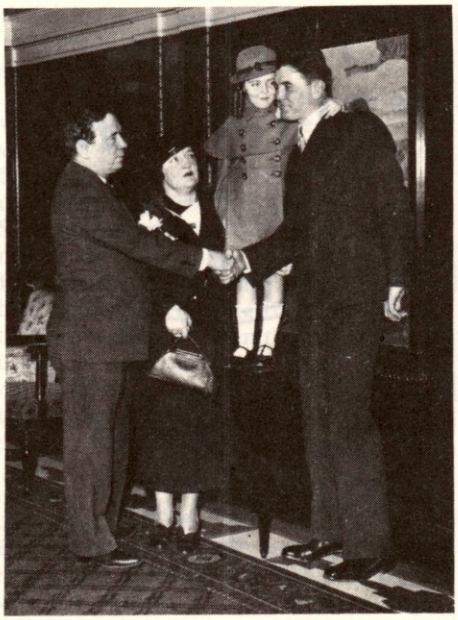
Even when the man was 70 years old they still called him the Boy Bandit, which was a form of compliment by the reverse-English standards of the profession he dignified, because in the fist-fight dodge a talent for banditry is considered stock equipment, but youth is a coveted attribute. When the fight mob applied the nickname to James Joy Johnston they used it in envious tribute to a man who not only could be as bold and guileful a brigand as the best of them but also remain, at heart, younger than the youngest.

Actually, Jimmy Johnston died before the title he preferred for himself won public acceptance. He would have liked to be known as "boxing's elder statesman," which was the role in which he really fancied himself. It was a well-earned title, too, for there never was another ambassador who could carry the cauliflower gospel into such unlikely quarters with such unfailing grace as he. It was his pride and his delight that he could appear before the Browning and Fancy Needlework Guild of Mount Vernon, whose members obviously expected to see a man in a turtleneck sweater and checkered cap, and charm the bridgework out of their mouths.

He affected a cynical attitude ("Legitimate business," he said, "is a figure of speech") and it was said that he was unhappy in his last days because nobody hated him any longer. But as a matter of fact he was always at his best among friends, and the fight mob never has known such amiably social salons as he used to conduct in Charles' Restaurant.

That was the feedbox in the Madison Square Garden Building where Jimmy held a tea party every afternoon at four o'clock when he was the Garden promoter, gathering the mob about him and spinning yarns hour upon hour. It was the greatest school for young fight writers this town ever knew, and some who attended it for three or four years hand running will swear Jimmy never had to repeat a story.

One of the tales concerned a day in his old office in what is now the Paramount Building when there materialized in the doorway a tremendous hunk of man who said he wanted to be a fighter.



April 19, 1935. Jimmy, Mrs. Johnston, and daughter Yvonne are wished **"bon voyage"** *by James J. Braddock. The Johnstons sailed for Europe on the S.S.* **Manhattan**

JIMMY JOHNSTON: BOXING'S 'BOY BANDIT' REMEMBERED

"How did you get up here?" James demanded.

"By the elevator."

"That," snapped Mr. Johnston, "is a good way to get out."

"Which was a good enough retort," Jimmy related years later, "except that when I next saw the young man he was Jess Willard, heavyweight champion of the world."

This wasn't, of course, the only mistake he ever made. He used to tell of another time when he and Charley Harvey were partners and decided to import a phenomenal English boxer named Jem Driscoll. He and Harvey met the ship on which Driscoll was to arrive and scanned the debarking crowd without finding anyone who looked like a fighter. They were about to depart when a snaggle-toothed stranger with hideously cauliflowered ears introduced himself as Driscoll.

Knowing Driscoll's reputation as a defensive genius, Jimmy instantly tabbed this damaged derelict as an imposter. A reformed boxer himself, Jimmy took him to a gym and set out to expose the impostor by getting into the ring with him.

"I let go with one punch," Jimmy used to recall, "and landed outside the ropes. I put two or three pros in with the guy, and they haven't touched him yet, It turned out he had such wonderful reflexes he could dodge a punch by a sixteenth of an inch, and that's how he got his ears torn up."

Generally speaking, Jimmy didn't talk up the good fighters he handled, knowing their performance would speak for him. He was at his best building up a Phil Scott or a Mighty Menichelli or some other essentially peaceable citizen, and he was unrivaled in the art of transmuting a knock into a boost. Thus when his Bob Pastor ran away from Joe Louis, Jimmy boomed him from coast to coast as "Rapid Robert" and "Bicycle Bob."

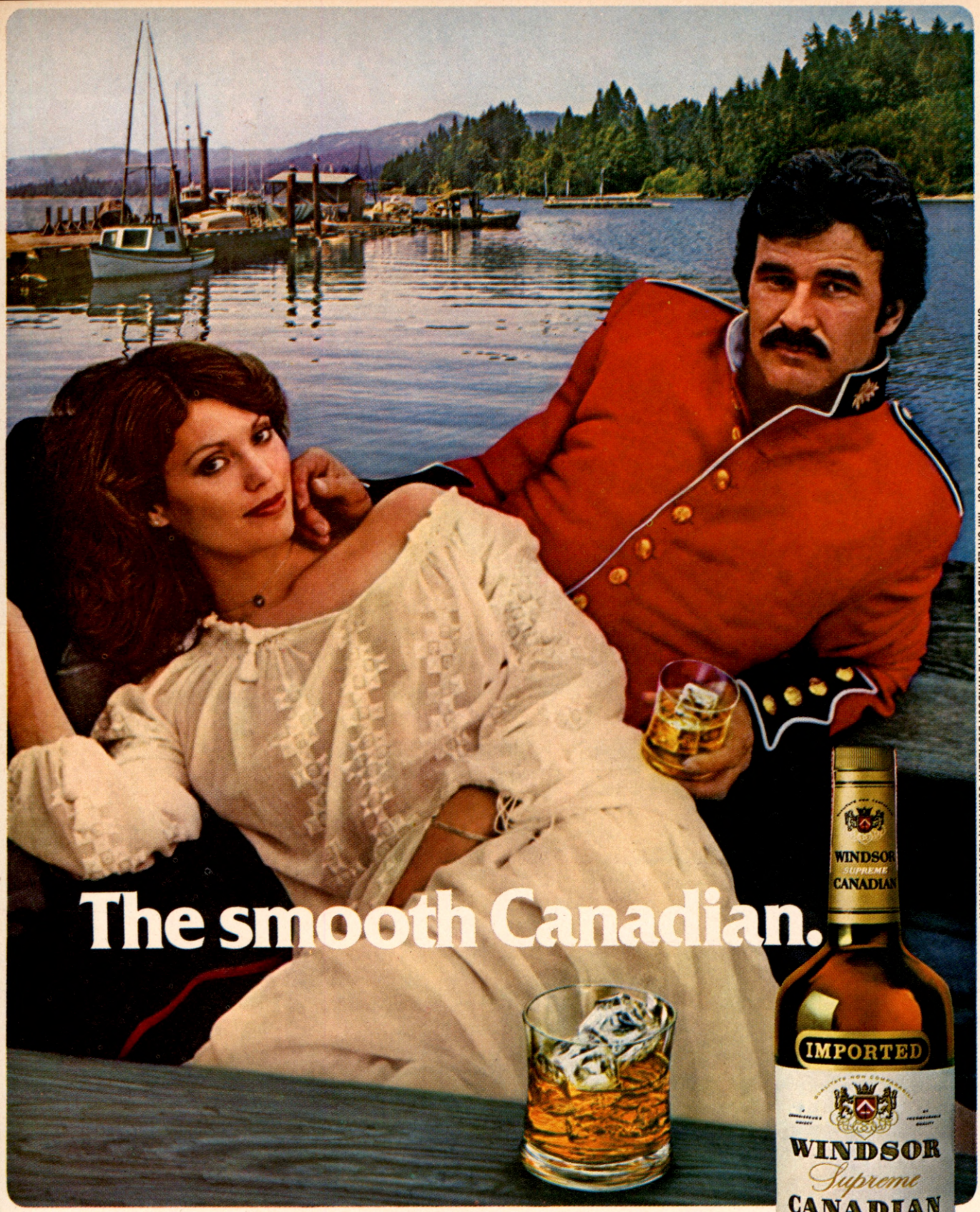
A personal recollection concerns a night in Hollywood when Pastor appeared with one Turkey Thompson. There were either seven or nine knockdowns, although not that many punches, and once Pastor was floored by a left jab. This is a difficult feat in any circumstances, and even more so when you're in with a man who can't throw a left jab. After Pastor won, Jimmy was asked to explain how this knockdown came to pass.

"I was hollering at my Robert to stay down and take the full nine count," came the unhesitating answer, "and he misunderstood me to say 'fall down.' My Robert is very obedient."

Jimmy knew for years that his heart was unsound. His physician pleaded with him not to work in Pastor's corner in the second Louis fight in Detroit, and when Jimmy insisted, the doctor compromised by giving him a bottle of pills for use if the ticker misbehaved.

It was a perilously exciting bout, with Pastor down several times in the first round, then coming on to belabor Louis stoutly before succumbing in the eleventh. Jimmy had to feed the whole bottle of pills to the doctor.

RED SMITH



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